Guidelines for Neuroimaging Investigators in the Department of Psychiatry to submit requests for scanner time for pilot studies:

The proposal should be brief, no longer than 2 pages, and include the following:

1. Project title and PI (the PI must have an appointment in the Department of Psychiatry and be eligible to apply as PI for extramural grant support).
2. Brief background to the study;
   Rationale and clear statement of the hypotheses to be tested;
   Description of the subjects to be tested;
   Specifications of the scanning protocol to be employed;
   Required ancillary equipment, if needed (i.e., stimulus presentation, eye-tracker, physiology apparatus)*
3. Analyses to be performed
4. Number of scans and time / scanner requested (maximum 10 hours). If 7T, please indicate whether Dr. Hoby Hetherington or Dr. Tamer Ibrahim will direct scanning efforts.
5. Projected start and completion dates (maximum 6 month duration)
6. Names and degrees of all personnel involved in the study's MRI component/ Qualifications of the team for running the study
7. Plans for funding beyond the pilot grant, including a statement that grant proposals resulting from this pilot study will be submitted through the WPH Office of Grants and Contracts.
8. Proposals must include a copy of your IRB protocol and approval letter, or indicate that IRB approval is pending

* This pilot program provides funds to defray scanning costs, alone. Any additional costs, such as participant payments, use of the simulator, IV sedation, etc are the responsibility of the PI.

Proposals should be submitted by email to Rachel Berta (goodra@upmc.edu)

Upon receipt, all proposals will be forwarded to a review committee. This committee will meet once a month.
Proposals will be evaluated on

1. Scientific merit
2. Feasibility of the protocol with MRRC imaging facilities
3. Ability of the research team to conduct the study
4. Availability of magnet time
5. Potential for a significant contribution to the field and likelihood for eventual external funding

If a recommendation for allotting pilot scanning time is granted, the PI will be notified and given a special-use scanning code and password.

Should you have questions, please contact either Mary Phillips (phillipsml@upmc.edu) or Howard Aizenstein (aizen@pitt.edu), Co-Directors of Psychiatric Imaging of the MRRC.

We look forward to receiving applications.

Sincerely,
Mary and Howard