Label	Value
Core Facility Name	The Behavioral Core
Last Name	Pletnikov
First Name	Mikhail
Email	mpletni1@jhu.edu
Phone	410-502-6730
Amount of Funding Requested	$25,000
Briefly describe the core services you offer:	We are the only Behavioral Core at the Johns Hopkins University and the Baltimore area. We provide unique services in a wide range of neurobehavioral assays and tests to the JHU community. Following are the key services we offer: 1. Training and assistance in using the behavioral equipment as well as full service provided by the core staff, including planning, designing and performing behavioral tests, statistical analyses and graphical representation of results. 2. Comprehensive and objective phenotyping of various domains of mouse or rat behaviors, ranging from simple basic neurological tests through assays for sensory and motor reflexes or behaviors to sophisticated affective and cognitive tests and assays for a variety of social behaviors in developing, mature and aging laboratory rodents. 3. Quantitative evaluation of abnormal behaviors in different animal models of neurological or psychiatric conditions as well as alterations in behavioral responses in animal models relevant to pathology of various organs, tissues, and systems. 4. Help for individual investigators to develop a detailed plan for behavioral testing, provide statistical analyses of data, and interpret and publish behavioral data. 5. Development of specific behavioral tests unavailable for routine use to address the unique needs of individual investigators in behavioral assays.
What specific services do you plan to offer as part of this RFA?	1. Comprehensive neurobehavioral phenotyping of yet untested animal models from early stage or new investigators with minimal or no experience in behavioral studies. Investigators from clinical departments often request this kind of service. The core typically offers full service ($115/hour) for such projects that often necessitate a comprehensive evaluation of behavioral outcomes of various disease models. The RFA will help decrease the financial burden of such a service for young investigators from clinical departments 2. Development of specific behavioral assays currently unavailable in the core to address focused research programs of particular investigators. Development of new behavioral assays has been always a key service and function of the core. Development of a new method always requires substantial time and funding for a staff member to work closely with a user in order to develop, validate and aid in a newly designed test. 3. Providing full service of sophisticated and time-consuming behavioral tests. For example, there is a growing need in using sophisticated cognitive tests that take 2-3 weeks (an expensive undertaking for most users) and require an experienced behaviorist. We will use the RFA fund to offer this service to the JHU community.
How do these services address the goals of the pilot program?	1. They will significantly expand a group of JHU investigators who have never used behavioral tests. 2. They will help generate preliminary data for grant applications from young investigators.

	3. They will facilitate interdisciplinary collaborative programs between laboratories.
	4. They will accelerate development of new behavioral assays that the core will offer to investigators on a regular basis in the nearest future.
	6. They will promote awareness among JHU investigators about advantages of including behavioral assays in their research programs to increase their competitiveness for high-impact publications and funding.
	7. They will lead to establishing a more "dedicated" set of JHU investigators interested in long-term and sophisticated behavioral paradigms.
How would you select recipients to receive core services? Please describe the process and criteria you might use.	The submitted requests and projects will be reviewed by a committee comprising of Dr. Mikhail V. Pletnikov (Director), Dr. Chantelle Terrillion (Manager), and Dr. Timothy H. Moran (Vice-Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences). This committee will identify the projects for funding. Criteria to be considered during the selection process: 1. Early stage or new investigator based on the NIH criteria 2. New investigator to the core 3. Novelty of the project 4. Investigator without prior experience in behavioral phenotyping 5. Pilot results are needed for grant applications 6. Development of new tests 7. Full service for the behavior tests requiring long-term time and funding commitment
How do you plan to allocate the amounts available to individual investigators?	We will subsidize the entire project if it costs under $3,000 or provide a subsidy up to $3,000 with the investigator covering the rest of the cost. We anticipate that we will be able to fund 7-8 investigators through this mechanism. Start and end dates of the award will be closely monitored to ensure timely use of funding. Awardees will not have priority over other users in terms of access to or training for the equipment or analyses of data.