

4th Annual Million Dollar Bike Ride

The [Penn Medicine Orphan Disease Center](#) (ODC) will host the 4th Annual Million Dollar Bike Ride on Saturday, May 20th, 2017 to raise money for rare disease research. The Million Dollar Bike Ride brings over 600 cyclists and volunteers to Penn's campus to ride either 12, 33, or 73 miles starting in the city, and ranging across the Greater Philadelphia region.

In two years, the MDBR's 20+ teams have raised over \$2 million to fund research grants on the [diseases they represent](#). The ODC ensures that 100% of the funds raised goes towards these pilot grants, with no overhead taken out.

All funds raised by Disease Teams through pledges are used by the ODC to expand the scope and depth of the pilot grant program. Following the event, a Request for Application (RFA) will be broadly distributed to the international scientific community requesting pilot grant applications to study diseases for which designated money has been raised. The ODC is securing philanthropic and corporate donations that will be used to match dollar-for-dollar money raised by the cycling participants. Scientific leadership of the ODC and its extramural advisors will review the applications and make awards to those of the highest scientific merit which address the specific topics outlined in the RFA. The ODC will disperse the money to grantees and manage progress of the science and spending on the award. Progress reports will be sent to the Disease Teams.

For questions regarding participation in the MDBR as a

cyclist, volunteer or sponsor, or regarding the pilot grant program, please contact Samantha Charleston at scharle@upenn.edu or (215) 573-6822. You may also visit www.milliondollarbikeride.org.