

Million Dollar Bike Ride Registration Open for 2018



The [Penn Medicine Orphan Disease Center](#) (ODC) will host the 5th Annual Million Dollar Bike Ride on Sunday, May 20th, 2018 to raise money for rare disease research.

The Million Dollar Bike Ride brings over 500 cyclists and volunteers to Penn's campus to ride either 13, 34, or 72 miles starting in the city, and ranging across the Greater Philadelphia region. In four years, the MDBR's 25+ teams have raised over \$6.4 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.

The Penn Medicine Orphan Disease Center (ODC) was established to promote the development of therapies across a broad range of orphan diseases. Each of these diseases by definition is rare but collectively represents a substantial health care burden. Most orphan diseases manifest in children with premature mortality and/or significant disability and little is available in terms of treatments. In order to assemble a critical mass of intellectual and patient resources for any

one disease, the ODC will reach beyond the borders of Penn and promote inter-institutional collaborations/partnerships. The ODC will develop transformative therapies using platform technologies that can be deployed across multiple rare diseases. We will emphasize disorders with substantial unmet need independent of their incidence and will strive to assure access to patients of all populations.

All funds raised by Disease Teams through pledges are used by the ODC to expand the scope and depth of the MDBR 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.

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.

Please follow [this link](#) to register for the ride. We look forward to seeing you.

[Million Dollar Bike Ride 2017](#) from [Deep Focus](#) on [Vimeo](#).