CMSR P30 Pilot Program converts $500k into $21.2M in New Investigator Pilot Program
Research scientists aren’t born, they’re made – and it doesn’t happen overnight. A critical factor in their
early development: seed funds to launch their own research projects.
Federal and University of Rochester-sourced funds help young researchers at CMSR build skills
in scientific investigation, writing research papers and grant proposals, and presenting their work. A
relatively modest investment in promising researchers yields big returns for them.
A core belief of the CMSR is that outstanding New/Early Stage Investigators (N/ESI, defined by
NIH as faculty who have not received a large independent research grant) who gain access to pilot
research funding, and state-of-the-art research equipment, will produce the preliminary data necessary
to support their NIH R01 and K-award applications, and establish themselves as independent
investigators and national leaders in their respective field. Evidence that the CMSR is excelling with this
primary mission comes from the remarkable 42-fold return on investment (ROI) on its NIH P30 Core
Center Pilot Program. The CMSR extended a total of $500K in pilots from 2014-2018 ($100K per year,
approximately $22.7K per award to 24 awardees, including 2 applicants that only received Research
Core support, but no budget).
These pilots catalyzed $21,169,818 in extramural funding from NIH and other agencies (direct
cost only) to date. Beyond the financial ROI, the pilots enabled 62 publications and resulted in 17 faculty
promotions. To add to its P30 Pilot Program, the CMSR plans to award $30K from a new Discovery Fund
(awards up to $5,000 to be used in the CMSR’s Research Cores), which will be expeditiously awarded by
the CMSR’s Mentoring Core without a formal grant application or review process.
“At a time when federal funding for investigations is at a premium – and when many young researchers
choose industry over academic research – every dollar matters so much,” said Edward Schwarz, Ph.D.,
Richard and Margaret Burton Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedics and Director of CMSR. “P30
funding enables our researchers to move from collaborating on our PIs’ research projects, to working