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The University of Maryland-UMBC Research and Innovation Partnership Seed Grant Program

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and Baltimore (UMB) campuses are pleased to announce a new joint Research and Innovation Partnership Seed Grant Program for 2013. The intent of this new initiative is to promote the structured collaboration between UMBC and UMB and to advance the institutions' joint goals in research and innovation. Proposals submitted to this program must include at least one PI from each institution.

Our new UMB-UMBC Research and Innovation Partnership Seed Grant Program will:

- Foster creative teams of investigators working across disciplinary boundaries and campuses;
- Support new research foci to pursue future health care improvements and/or technologies; and
- Stimulate submission of innovative research proposals to federal, public or private funding agencies.

All areas of research will be considered for funding. Projects that promote and further our collaborative interests will be given preference in this year's review. For example, one area of interest is collaborations in visualization and imaging that use tools such as fMRI thus leveraging the joint UMB/UMBC fMRI facility.

To be considered for the seed grant opportunity, a proposal meeting the attached guidelines must be submitted no later than March 1, 2013. Proposals should address the merits of the proposed research and identify and justify NIH, NSF or other funding programs that would be receptive of a full proposal that contains preliminary results obtained. Further details are in the attached Appendix.

It is anticipated that multiple awards will be made. The final number of awards will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received, as well as their proposed budgets. The program will have significant financial support from many sources. The maximum per grant award is \$75K. Indirect costs are not to be included in the proposal budget.

Individual investigators may submit multiple proposals but can participate as a PI on only one awarded proposal. The top-ranked proposal after peer review will be the one eligible for funding. Investigators can serve as collaborators on an

unlimited number of proposals.

If you have detailed questions regarding application guidelines, please contact Sue Hobbs, UMSOM, SHobbs@som.umaryland.edu or Antonio Moreira, UMBC, moreira@umbc.edu. ***Proposals must be submitted to partnershipprogram.umbc.edu as a combined pdf file prior to 5:00 PM EST March 1, 2013.***

Appendix

Criteria

Eligibility: All full-time tenure-track faculty members having primary academic appointments in any college/school at UMBC or in any school at UMB are eligible. Exceptions must be approved by the Dean of the participating college/school prior to submission of a proposal, and reviewed by the Vice President for Research, UMBC, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, UMBC and the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, UMSOM and the Chief Academic Research Officer, UMB. This award program seeks to encourage groups of researchers (minimum of two faculty PIs) to collaborate on new avenues of research that would not otherwise be explored by any one group alone. It is expected that the program will support cross-campus teams. The research project must be original, creative, innovative and disruptive, and be beyond the scope of a typical single research group. The research is expected to lead to new external funding or future commercialization. New areas of research for existing collaborative teams will be considered.

Expectations: Award recipients are expected to produce sufficient preliminary results so that a proposal for external funding may be submitted within 12 months after award expiration. Such a proposal is a desired outcome, but is not mandatory. However, we expect that publication(s) or manuscript(s) will result from the funded work. Awardees will participate in annual Progress Reviews(s) or other events that bridge campuses and bring researchers together. Recipients will remain faculty members of the participating school throughout the course of the grant, with any substitutions requiring approval in advance.

Review: Proposals will be evaluated by a committee that will include faculty from UMB and UMBC campuses, and may include representatives from other agencies, including public, private and federal, with wide-ranging expertise appropriate to the types of proposals submitted. Applicants should not expect detailed written critiques of their proposals. Proposals will be reviewed for: 1) how well the project meets the goals of the Seed Grant Program, including the composition of the team of investigators; 2) meeting criteria (e.g., relevance to future public health concerns, significance, innovation, approach and qualification of investigative team/environment to carry out the aims); and 3) likelihood of attracting outside funding in the future.

Allowable Expenses: Research supplies; purchase or rental of equipment for new research; travel for research purposes (excluding travel to meetings or symposia); matching funds for research items; and salary support for a temporary position (1

year or less) for technicians, research associates (post-docs) and/or graduate students. All expenses must be well-justified.

Expenses Not Allowed: Salaries for PIs, secretarial support, general telephone services and postage, alterations or renovations of laboratory space, purchase of laboratory or office furniture, purchase of periodicals and books, and dues and memberships in scientific societies.

Conditions of the Award:

1. Awards are made to PIs and are not transferable without prior approval by the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, UMSOM and the Chief Academic Research Officer, UMB and the Vice President for Research, UMBC.
2. Equipment purchased with these funds is the property of UMB and UMBC and must remain should the PI leave his/her University.
3. A brief annual progress report and a final report (after 3 years, see #5, below) will be prepared.
4. Periodic surveys will require completion for interim progress or update on patent, invention, creation of new companies, technology for commercialization or other areas of interest to the schools.
5. Three years after the project ends, the PI will be asked to file an update (part of final report) listing all presentations, published papers and extramural funds that have resulted, in whole or in part, from the project. These should be sent to the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, UMSOM and the Chief Academic Research Officer, UMB and the Vice President for Research, UMBC upon request.
6. Funds should be budgeted for completion and exhausted at the end of one calendar year. Remaining or unspent funds are to be returned for subsequent competitions.

Other: The proposal should also identify specific research goals that will enhance the success of a full proposal, as well as provide a specific targeted timeline by which these objectives can be reasonably achieved. Finally, the proposal should provide a budget that adequately reflects the intended use of the funds with respect to the proposed objectives for each institutional component.

Application Guidelines

Your proposal must contain the items outlined below, under the page limitations provided. Proposals failing to meet these guidelines will not be considered for funding. Anticipated funding start date will be September 1, 2013.

Cover Page (limited to 1 page):

- Title of Project
- Names and Appointments of all Co-PIs
- Statement of Collaborative Effort. Include a specific statement as to how the collaboration between the investigators from each campus is necessary to move this research proposal forward. This should include processes for maintaining communication and interactions between campuses, and monitoring of equitable distribution of intellectual involvement.

Proposed Research (maximum 5 single-spaced pages) including:

Specific Aims - Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans, as appropriate.

Project Description - (including Project Plan, expected outcomes) include two or three sentences describing the public health relevance of the project and commercial benefit (where applicable).

Please comment on how this interaction will impact the research program's future direction and the following:

Significance: 1) Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses; 2) explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields; and 3) describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

Innovation: 1) Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms; 2) describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s); and 3) explain any refinements, improvements or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.

Budget (limited to 1 page): Total amount of funds being requested; individual and detailed budgets for each campus.

Additional Information:

- Biosketches – NIH or NSF format (all faculty)
- Identified Future Funding source. Be explicit- which program in which agency will be targeted for a future application
- References (including full titles)