Neuroscience COBRE Pilot Project Request for Proposals

The Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Neuroscience is pleased to announce the availability of funds to support new initiatives in neuroscience research at the University of Vermont. The funds are available to support innovative, new research projects from junior and mid-career investigators that require use of one or both of the Neuroscience COBRE multi-user research cores: the Imaging/Physiology Core or the Cellular/Molecular Core.

The focus of the project must align with one of the following strategic research areas supported by the Neuroscience COBRE: 1) Stroke and neurovascular interactions and 2) Neural regulation of autonomic nervous system development, function and disorders.

Junior and mid-career investigators (assistant/associate professor, any track) are eligible to apply; the deadline for receipt of applications is February 22, 2013. Funding is for one year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

Budget Information:
Total allowed: $50,000 direct costs.
Up to 10% effort for faculty salaries may be requested.
Salaries for student and/or technical support may be requested.
Project supplies and animal costs and housing may be requested.
No equipment costs are allowed.
Charges for Neuroscience COBRE core use will be waived for a funded pilot project.

Format: Use 11 point font, ½" margins, single column
Assemble application in the following order with the indicated page limits:

Title Page: Include Descriptive Title (≤81 characters in length) and your name, department and position title

Specific Aims: limit to 1 page. State concisely the overall goal(s) and specific aim(s) of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

Research Plan: limit to 6 pages including all figures. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Discuss preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this proposal. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted and discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

Literature Cited: length as needed. Include full article titles and first 6 authors in the citation

Detailed budget: length as needed. Include percent effort and justification for all salaried personnel and detailed categorized costs associated with the project support, including justification for major expenses. Animal costs must include justification for numbers of animals.

Biosketch: Include 2 page NIH format for applicant and any other faculty or research associates included in the budget.

Other support: length as needed. List all other research support currently available to the applicant and list all pending research applications. Also list any funding completed within the last five years. The pilot project funding is for new, innovative research programs. Include in this section the relationship of the requested funding to current and past funding.

Vertebrate animals: length as required**.** If vertebrate animals will be used, address the following points: 1) proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed; 3) adequacy of veterinary care; 4) procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research including the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices; and 5) methods of euthanasia and reason for selection if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Biohazards: length as needed. If materials or procedures proposed are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, describe the protective measures to prevent exposure.

Protections for Human Subjects: length as needed. For research that involves human subjects but does not involve one of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, include the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

For research that involves human subjects and meets the criteria for one or more of the six categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, include: 1) the justification for the exemption, 2) human subjects involvement and characteristics, and 3) sources of materials.

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children. When the proposed project involves clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children.

Resource Sharing Plan(s): length as required. The funds for the pilot project are derived from a parent NIH grant; projects must comply with NIH regulations. NIH considers the sharing of unique research resources developed through NIH-sponsored research an important means to enhance the value of, and advance, research. When resources have been developed with NIH funds and the associated research findings published or provided to NIH, it is important that they be made readily available for research purposes to qualified individuals within the scientific community. If the final data/resources are not amenable to sharing, this must be explained in Resource Sharing section of the application. See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_faqs.htm.

(a) Data Sharing Plan: Investigators are expected to include a brief 1-paragraph description of how final research data will be shared, or explain why data-sharing is not possible.
(b) Sharing Model Organisms: All applications where the development of model organisms is anticipated are expected to include a description of a specific plan for sharing and distributing unique model organisms and related resources, or state appropriate reasons why such sharing is restricted or not possible. See Sharing Model Organisms Policy, and NIH Guide NOT-OD-04-042.
(c) Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS): Applicants seeking funding for a genome-wide association study are expected to provide a plan for submission of GWAS data to the NIH-designated GWAS data repository, or provide an appropriate explanation why submission to the repository is not possible. A genome-wide association study is defined as any study of genetic variation across the entire genome that is designed to identify genetic associations with observable traits (such as blood pressure or weight) or the presence or absence of a disease or condition.

Submission of proposal: Submit as an email attachment or forward via FTP to cynthia.forehand@uvm.edu no later than midnight, **February 22, 2013**.

Review process and criteria: Projects will be reviewed by senior Neuroscience COBRE personnel and the COBRE External Advisory Committee. Decisions will be made by April 30, 2013. If chosen, required IRB and IACUC approvals must be in place for the project before funds are made available. Additionally, documentation that all personnel have completed relevant laboratory safety training will be required.

Review criteria:

Project quality and innovation.

Relevance of the project to one the two strategic research areas of the Neuroscience COBRE: 1) Stroke and neurovascular interactions and 2) Neural regulation of autonomic nervous system development, function and disorders.

Match of proposed experiments to budget and outcome within time frame

Use of the Neuroscience COBRE core facilities.

For equally ranked projects, those from junior investigators will be given higher priority than those from mid-career investigators.

Reviewers will be asked to comment upon adequacy of plans regarding vertebrate animals, biohazards, human subjects and resource sharing.

For questions, please contact: Cindy Forehand cynthia.forehand@uvm.edu 656-8060