March 7, 2017

Dear Department Chairs and Program Directors,

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation has recently announced the 2018 Beckman Scholars Program, a limited competition award (see the attached description) with a deadline date of June 15, 2017. The University may put forward a single application for this award. The Foundation stipulates that the UVM application selected to move forward should be prepared either individually or jointly by the chair(s) or appropriate institutional representative(s) of the academic units of chemistry, biochemistry, biology, and/or medical sciences.

This program seeks to stimulate, encourage and support research activities conducted by exceptionally talented, full-time undergraduate students. The research activities are to be centered in either chemistry, biochemistry, the biological and medical sciences or some interdisciplinary combination of these subjects. UVM’s Carnegie Classification is Doctoral Universities: Higher Research Activity, which means if awarded, we could support a maximum of 5 Beckman Scholar students over the course of the 3-year award and would be required to propose 10-12 mentors. Since UVM was awarded a grant for this program in 2014, UVM’s status for this program is “Past Awardee” for purposes of filling out the required components of the application.

If you are interested in submitting an application for this award, please upload a Letter of Interest (LOI) as a single pdf file into UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions (https://uvm.infoready4.com/). The LOI should be no longer than a total of three pages. No more than two pages should: 1) describe the proposed project, 2) explain why it would be competitive for this competition and; 3) provide a table of information about each faculty mentor proposed. The table should include the column headings (in bold) listed below for information related to each proposed faculty mentor. The last page of the LOI should be a letter of support from the Dean or direct Supervisor.

a) **Name**
b) **# Yrs in TTA** (tenure-track appt.)
c) **Current funding** (sponsors, #of awards)
d) in Spring 2017 **# UG in lab** (undergrads in mentored research project in your lab)
e) in Spring 2017 **# GS and # PD in lab** (grad students/postdocs conducting research in your lab)
f) From start of academic year 2011-2012 to the end of academic year 2015-2016 (5 years), total number of UG co-authors (#in peer-reviewed; # in other) research publications, already published or in press. Count each student co-author only once, even if they co-author multiple publications.

f) Department of Primary Appointment

The deadline for submitting LOIs is April 3, 2017 before 4:30 p.m. at which time the InfoReady portal will automatically close. LOIs will only be accepted through the InfoReady Portal (https://uvm.infoready4.com/)

LOIs will be evaluated on the following criteria: 1) strength of the proposed faculty mentors; 2) thoroughness of the plan to recruit and identify the best-suited students; 3) alignment with the sponsor’s goals; 4) potential for proposed mentoring activities to impact scholars.

Selection of the candidate shall be made shortly thereafter. Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Hilda Alajajian.

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