June 20, 2017

Dear Deans, Department Chairs and Directors,

The National Institute of Health (NIH), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), has recently announced the Neuroscience Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce (R25) program, a limited competition award (see the description at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-312.html ) with a deadline date of September 25, 2017. The University may put forward a single application for this award.

This is a flexible and specialized program designed to foster the development of neuroscience researchers from underrepresented backgrounds across career stages. Thus, it encourages applications from applicant organizations that propose innovative mentoring and professional development activities in the mission area(s) of the NINDS. The NINDS Diversity R25 initiative will focus on factors that have been shown to affect retention of underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, and junior faculty in neuroscience research such as mentoring, scientific networks and professional development (http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/Reports; http://acd.od.nih.gov/dbr.htm). The NINDS expects applicant institutions to propose programs that will lead to an improvement in the professional development, mentoring and technical expertise of individuals who are nationally underrepresented in neuroscience research.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for this award, please upload a pre-proposal as a single document file into UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions (https://uvm.infoready4.com/). The pre-proposal should be no more than 3 pages (excluding any references and biosketches) and identify the lead investigator, and program faculty. Pre-proposals should describe the goals and objectives of the proposed research education program and why it is: a) innovative; b) feasible and; c) in alignment with the NINDS program goals. Pre-proposals should include a section describing the lead investigator’s research/teaching experience in an area related to NINDS mission as well as the mentoring experience and neuroscience funding records of the program faculty. Pre-proposals should describe the intended participants, how they fit the three targeted groups listed in the solicitation and how they will be recruited. The deadline for submitting LOIs through the InfoReady Portal is July 17, 2017 before 4:30 pm after which the Portal will automatically close.

Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Hilda Alajajian, Grant Resources Specialist, Sponsored Project Administration, Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu, 802-656-1322