May 18, 2016

Dear Department Chair/Program Director,

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently announced Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Predoctoral Training in Biomedical Big Data Science (T32), a limited competition award (see the description at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-LM-16-002.html) deadline date of July 25, 2016. The University may put forward a single application for this award. Please share this announcement with the faculty in your unit.

The purpose of this NIH Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to solicit applications for graduate training programs in Big Data Science, for the expressed purpose of training the next generation of scientists who will develop computational and quantitative approaches and tools needed by the biomedical research community to work with biomedical Big Data in the biomedical sciences. Since the focus of the training is in the area of developing new approaches and tools for manipulating, analyzing, and interpreting Big Data, the PD/PIs for this type of training program should collectively encompass expertise from all three major scientific areas, including demonstrated research leadership in computer science/informatics, statistics/mathematics, and biomedical science.

If you are interested in submitting an application for this award, please forward a letter of interest to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu). The letter should be no longer than 2 pages and include a brief description of the proposed training program, a statement about why you deem the proposal to be competitive for this competition and a grid of information about the proposed PD/PI(s) and each training mentor to include: 1) # of recent publications and successful competitions for research support in areas directly related to the proposed research training program; 2) # of undergraduate students in a mentored research project in your lab, and # of graduate students conducting research in your lab during the Academic 2015-2016 year; 3) evidence of collaboration amongst other proposed mentors (or involvement) in biomedical Big Data Science projects. LOIs will be evaluated on the following criteria: 1) strength and experience of the PI/PD and mentor team; 2) alignment of the proposed training program with the sponsor’s goals; 3) thoroughness of the plan to recruit and identify the best suited trainees; 4) potential for the training program to produce graduates who will have the required
multidisciplinary skill sets for careers in the field of biomedical Big Data and; 5) feasibility. The deadline for submitting letters of interest to the Sponsored Project Administration office June 6, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.

Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Jennifer Gagnon or Hilda Alajajian.

Sincerely,

Hilda Alajajian
Grant Resources Specialist, SPA

Jennifer Gagnon
Associate Vice President for Research Administration