DATE: October 4, 2018
TO: Distribution
FROM: Richard Galbraith, Vice President for Research
SUBJECT: Call for Pre-proposals: National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program

The National Science Foundation is soliciting proposals for the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program. Proposals will be considered for instrumentation used for any NSF-supported field of science, mathematics, and engineering.

The MRI program will accept proposals for both acquisition and development of research instrumentation, and the University may submit up to three proposals to the program. Two of these proposals may be submitted under Track 1 for requests greater than or equal to $100,000 and less than $1,000,000. One of the three may be submitted under Track 2 for requests greater than or equal to $1,000,000 up to and including $4,000,000.

For both acquisition and development proposals, we are required to cost share at precisely 30% of the total proposal project cost. The maximum award from NSF will be $4 million. Proposals must be for either acquisition or development of a single well-integrated instrument. The minimum award will be $100,000. There is no minimum for awards in mathematics, social, behavioral, or economic sciences. The minimum and maximum award amounts represent NSF's contribution to the project and do not include the institution's cost sharing.

At this time, I am requesting pre-proposals from any faculty member wishing to apply to this program. Pre-proposals are due by 4:30 p.m. on November 01, 2018 and may be uploaded as a single document into UVM's InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions (https://uvm.infoready4.com/).

The pre-proposal should be submitted as a single file, be no more than 3 pages (excluding references and endorsement statements) and include: 1) the Track under which you plan to submit; 2) a detailed description of the cost share plan (required for review); 3) description of the instrument development or acquisition (please specify acquisition or development) for which support is sought; 4) the potential users of the instrument; 5) why the proposed project would be competitive for the award; 6) description of the instrument’s potential to support the activities of one or more of the University’s strategic initiatives and; 7) endorsements from the appropriate Department Chair and Dean. Proposed projects will be evaluated using the following criteria: Intellectual Merit; Broader Impacts; Alignment with the program goals; Feasibility; and thoroughness of the Cost Share Plan.

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), in consultation with relevant Deans, will select the proposals to be submitted from UVM.
Deadlines:

Thu. Nov. 01, 2018 Submission of a pre-proposal as described above. It should be addressed to the attention of Richard Galbraith and uploaded via the UVM InfoReady Portal before 4:30 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 19, 2018 A representative from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) will notify potential applicants of the projects which have been selected for submission to NSF.

Mon. Dec. 17, 2019 Routing form packet completed with SPA.

Jan. 01 – Jan. 22, 2019 Proposals must be received electronically at NSF by 5:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact either Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu) or Richard Galbraith (Richard.Galbraith@uvm.edu) with questions.