February 24, 2020

Dear Deans, Directors, Chairs and Faculty,

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently announced three instrumentation grants copied below. Only the first one below, Shared Instrumentation for Animal Research (SIFAR) Grant Program (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) limits the institution to one application. However, all three competitions share the same stipulation that, "In general, concurrent SIG, HEI and/or Shared Instrumentation for Animal Research (SIFAR) applications for the same instrument (or the same type of instrument with added special accessories to meet the HEI budget requirement or the same instrument in a cluster of instruments to meet the SIFAR program requirements) are not allowed unless documentation from a high-level institutional official is provided, stating that this is not an unintended duplication, but part of a campus-wide instrumentation plan." In order to comply with the above-stipulated limitations, the application process will be coordinated through the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Anyone who is interested in submitting an application to any one of the three NIH instrumentation programs listed below should upload a pre-proposal as a single document file into UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions (https://uvm.infoready4.com/). There will be a separate link for each competition. The pre-proposal should be no more than three pages (excluding any references) and include the name of the relevant NIH S10 competition, a description of the equipment and estimated cost, the qualifications of the proposed PI, how the Major User Group requirement will be met, and a brief description of research that will benefit from the equipment. The deadline for submitting pre-proposals through the InfoReady Portal is March 16, 2020 before 4:30 pm after which the Portal will automatically close. Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Hilda Alajajian.

- **Shared Instrumentation for Animal Research (SIFAR) Grant Program (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)** – *Only one SIFAR application per institution is allowed.* Concurrent SIG, HEI and/or SIFAR applications for the same instrument (or the same type of instrument with added special accessories to meet the HEI budget requirement or the same instrument in a cluster of instruments to meet the SIFAR program requirements) are not allowed unless documentation from a high-level institutional official is provided, stating that this is not an unintended duplication, but part of a campus-wide instrumentation plan. *(PAR-20-112)*
  
  Application Deadline: June 1, 2020

The Shared Instrumentation for Animal Research (SIFAR) Grant Program encourages applications from groups of NIH-funded investigators to purchase or upgrade scientific instruments necessary to carry out animal experiments in all areas of biomedical research supported by the NIH. Applicants may request clusters of commercially available instruments configured as specialized integrated systems or as series of instruments to support a thematic well-defined area of research using animals or related materials. Priority will be given to uniquely configured...
systems to support innovative and potentially transformative investigations. This FOA supports requests for state-of-the art commercially available technologies needed for NIH-funded research using any vertebrate and invertebrate animal species. This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) does not support requests for single instruments. At least one item of the requested instrumentation must cost at least $50,000, after all applicable discounts. No instrument in a cluster can cost less than $20,000, after all applicable discounts. There is no maximum price requirement; however, the maximum award is $750,000.

- **High-End Instrumentation (HEI) Grant Program (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)** – Multiple applications for HEI and SIG competitions are allowed provided the applications request different types of equipment. ([PAR-20-114](#)) Application Deadline: June 1, 2020

  The High-End Instrumentation (HEI) Grant Program encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of expensive, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems. The minimum award is $600,001. There is no maximum price limit for the instrument; however, the maximum award is $2,000,000.

- **Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)** - Multiple applications for HEI and SIG competitions are allowed provided the applications request different types of equipment. ([PAR-20-113](#)) Application Deadline: June 1, 2020

  The Shared Instrument Grant (SIG) Program encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of expensive, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems. The minimum award is $50,000 of direct costs. There is no maximum price requirement; however, the maximum award is $600,000 of direct costs.

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