November 18, 2016

Dear Dean, Department Chair and Program Director,

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has just announced two limited competitions for research training of students. Both competitions seek to provide training for students underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. They both have deadline dates in late January 2017 and are each limited to one application per institution. For more information, see the descriptions below.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for either of these competitions, upload your letter of interest into UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions at: https://uvm.infoready4.com/ You may also view at this portal, a document with an overview comparison of the two programs.

The letter of interest (LOI) should be directed to Dr. Richard Galbraith and include a brief description of the proposed project and a statement about why you deem the proposal to be competitive for this competition. LOIs will be evaluated on significance, feasibility, alignment with the program goals, strength of the participating faculty team, and the plan to recruit targeted students. The deadline for submitting letters of interest through the InfoReady Portal described below is December 5, 2016 at 5:00 pm after which time the portal will automatically close. LOIs will only be accepted through UVM’s InfoReady Portal.

• **Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) (R25) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (PAR-17-051)**

This FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on Research Experiences and Courses for Skills Development. Applications are encouraged from research-intensive institutions that propose to equip recent baccalaureate science graduates from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical sciences with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue Ph.D. degrees in these fields. The program provides support for extensive research experiences and well-designed courses for skills development aimed at preparing individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to complete doctoral degrees. The overarching goal of the program is to enhance the pool of students from underrepresented groups who successfully complete Ph.D. biomedical degrees.

• **Research Education: Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Program (R25) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (PAR-17-053)**

The over-arching goal of this NIGMS R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical research workforce. To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on: Courses for Skills Development (for example, advanced courses in a specific discipline or
research area, clinical procedures for research, or specialized research techniques) and on: Research Experiences (for example, for undergraduate students - to provide hands-on exposure to research, to reinforce their intent to graduate with a cutting-edge science degree, and/or to prepare them for graduate school admissions and/or careers in research; for graduate students - to provide cutting-edge modern research experiences and related training and mentoring not available through formal NIH training mechanisms.) An integral part of the program will be to engage in unique, targeted recruitment of individuals from currently underrepresented groups in the biomedical sciences research enterprise to ensure a diverse student cohort.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Hilda

Hilda Alajajian, MLS
Grant Resources Specialist
Sponsored Project Administration
University of Vermont
(802) 656-1322