UTHealth Office of Research Development and Strategy

Presidential Collaborative Research Awards - Request For Applications

Program Goals

The main objective of the Presidential Collaborative Research Award Program is to bring together accomplished researchers at UTHealth Schools to promote interactions and the generation of data that will lead to the submission of large multi-PI extramural grant applications. The awards will support basic, translational or clinical research. The competitive selection of projects will be conducted by an advisory board consisting of qualified reviewers from outside the institution. Projects will be selected based upon the expertise of the team and the quality of preliminary data presented. The most feasible and highest quality proposals will be funded with the major goal of pushing forward research that will lead to substantial extramural funding. These proposals should be viewed as Pre-RO1, or Pre-P/U awards provided to help the investigative teams generate findings that will lead to eventual high-level extramural grant submissions. Success of this program will be measured by the quality of data generated and the securing of additional public or private funding to continue the research.

Criteria

Applications will be accepted from all full-time tenure-track and tenured faculty members at UTHealth Schools, including The McGovern Medical School, The School of Public Health, The School of Nursing, the School of Dentistry and the School of Biomedical Informatics. Since a goal of this program is to promote collaboration across schools, all projects must consist of interdisciplinary teams with at least 2 PIs from different UTHealth Schools.

Support from the program for any one proposal can be up to $100,000 per year for up to two-years, with the second year of funding being dependent upon suitable progress by the end of year one. Funds may be used for direct costs such as technical support personnel, stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, research supplies, equipment or travel. No indirect costs are allowed. Funds can also be used for faculty salaries; however, these should be well justified and balanced to allow for the successful completion of the proposed research. A faculty member can be a principal investigator (PI) on only one proposal, but may participate as co-investigator (Co-I) on other proposals.

The Scientific Review Board will require a progress report at the end of year one and a final report at the end of the term of the award if it exceeds one year. Awards will be made with the understanding that investigators will submit an RO1/PO1, or its equivalent, within one to two years after initial receipt of funding.

Anticipated Number of Awards

Funding for the Presidential Collaborative Research Award is made possible by discretionary funds in the President’s Office and thus the number of awards may vary from year to year. It is
anticipated that 5 awards will be made this funding cycle. Two funding Cycles are anticipated (a September submission and a January Submission).

**Submission Components**

*Letter of Intent.* A Letter of Intent (1 page limit) from the PIs is required and should include the following: names, departments and schools of the PIs and any co-investigator(s), title of the application, and a brief summary of the team’s plans, demonstrating how the project fits with the goals of the funding opportunity. This letter is not binding, but will be used to help organize the rapid review of applications. All teams submitting an LOI will be eligible to submit a full application. Submit the LOI to by September 2, 2016.

*Applications.* Applications must include the following components assembled into one pdf. Adhere to NIH format as much as possible including the use of Arial 11 pt font size and ½-inch page margins.

a) A Specific Aims page (1 page limit) that describes the rationale, hypothesis and specific aims of the proposed study.

b) A Research Plan (6 page limit) consisting of a description of the significance (1/2 page) and innovation (1/2 page) of the proposed study and the proposed research approach (5 pages).

c) A description of how the research team fits the collaborative requirement of the program and a plan for eventual extramural grant submission (1/2 page).

d) NIH-Style Biographical Sketch on NIH Form PHS 398 Biographical Sketch page (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format), for the PI and all co-investigators.

e) Budget and Budget Justification (three page limit). The budget pages should be in NIH style (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format) and include the major categories of all expenses, as well as a detailed budget justification, and the percentage effort that key personnel will devote to the project. No indirect costs will be provided with an award. For multi-year proposals, estimates for the second year and appropriate justification of expenses should be provided.

f) Other Support (no page limit): include a description of other support for the PIs and Co-I’s from all external and internal funding sources including, but not limited to, grants, contracts and departmental start-up funds and the amounts and dates covered by such support.

g) IRB and/or animal protocol approval letters (approval for the study can be listed as pending at the time of application).

h) A letter of support from the different PI’s chairpersons, which includes an approval of the PI’s percentage effort devoted to the project.

**Review Criteria**

A Scientific Review Board consisting of faculty from outside the institution with appropriate expertise will evaluate the applications according to the following criteria:

a) Scientific Merit and Innovation

b) Project Consistency with goals of the funding opportunity (see above)

c) Collaborative Potential
d) Potential for leading to new grant applications

**Deadlines**

The Letter of Intent must be submitted by **September 2, 2016** to researchdevelopment@uth.tmc.edu to help organize the reviews.

Grant applications must be submitted by **October 28, 2016** to researchdevelopment@uth.tmc.edu and will be reviewed by the Scientific Review Board. It is anticipated that funding will begin December 1, 2016.

**Questions**

Please contact Catrina VanAllen (researchdevelopment@uth.tmc.edu) or Dr. Mike Blackburn (Michael.R.Blackburn@uth.tmc.edu)