Pilot Projects Program

The UNH Center of Integrated Biomedical and Bioengineering Research (CIBBR) is dedicated to accelerating and promoting multidisciplinary, high impact biomedical, bioengineering, and behavioral research at UNH. This mission is accomplished by supporting the career development of faculty so that they are successful in competing for investigator-initiated external awards from NIH, as well as encouraging biomedical scientists to develop collaborations on multidisciplinary research projects that advance clinical research, commercial opportunities, and translational medicine.

The CIBBR Pilot Project Program supports three types of pilot grants on a competitive basis with the goal of increasing the quality and quantity of NIH-funded research. Grants will be awarded to UNH faculty with a start date of June 1, 2018. We are soliciting applications for the following three initiatives:

• **Just-in-Time pilots (up to $15,000 for one year)** will target faculty who seek to generate critical preliminary data for a planned NIH research project grant submission no later than February, 2019 that fits the theme of the CIBBR. Priority will be given to supporting resubmissions in response to prior review of previously scored but not funded applications. [In addition to the standard pilot program application materials (below), investigators will be asked to provide their summary statement and a draft “Introduction” page responding to the reviewers’ critiques.]

• **Up-2-CIBBR pilots (up to $50,000 for one year)** are intended to provide transitional support for potential new Junior Investigators (JIs) to develop research programs aligned with the CIBBR as the current JIs prepare to transition to independent investigator status.

• **Bridge to Translation pilots (up to $50,000 total for one or two years)** will target faculty with current funding from NIH (or other federal programs) whose research shows strong potential for translating basic discoveries into clinically or commercially relevant approaches to developing new diagnostic tools or clinical treatments. Applicants need to either (1) identify an external mentor working in a clinical/translational environment that enables the researcher to participate in preclinical or clinical research, or (2) establish a collaboration with UNHInnovation documenting the market potential and path to commercialization of their faculty-driven research.

The Pilot Project Program is structured as follows:

1. UNH tenure-track and research faculty are eligible to apply.
2. Awards include the expectation that the investigator will participate in structured CIBBR activities.
3. Funding can be used to support students and post-docs, purchase supplies, and pay for conference travel to present research findings.
4. For projects that would benefit from acquisition of equipment which would benefit CIBBR investigators or other PIs, the proposal should include a list of potential major users, cost-sharing arrangements, and a plan for management by the University Instrumentation Center.
5. Funds will be made available on June 1, 2018 and must be spent no later than May 31, 2019 (May 31, 2020 for Bridge to Translation projects).
6. Students funded by a pilot project are expected to present their research at either the UNH Graduate or Undergraduate Research Conference.
7. Deliverables (e.g., grant application to NIH) must be identified in the application.
8. A report (2-3 pp.) of the work completed, its biomedical significance, and a future plan of action will be due March 1, 2019.
Application process:
The application consists of the following:

a. **Significance** (250 words maximum) describing the biomedical relevance and impact of the proposed research to the CIBBR and to the career development of the faculty.

b. **Research proposal** (1000 words maximum, not including references) describing the experimental design and approach for the proposed research.

c. **Budget** with justification.

d. **Products/outcomes** expected to be generated from the pilot project funding (e.g., NIH grant applications, manuscript submissions, conference presentations, patent applications, etc.).

e. **NIH Biosketch**

Email completed applications to the CIBBR Program Manager (Ashlee.Warren@unh.edu) by **March 23, 2018**.

The CIBBR Leadership Team (Rick Cote, Steve Fiering (Dartmouth), Kelley Thomas, and Don Wojchowski) will review the proposals, aided by ad hoc reviewers as appropriate. The standard NIH review criteria will be used for the evaluation of proposals, and special consideration will be given to the proposal’s relevance to the CIBBR theme and goals. Please direct any questions to Rick.Cote@unh.edu.

More information about the Center of Integrated Biomedical and Bioengineering Research can be found on its website.