CIBBR Pilot Project Program: Request for Proposals

Announcement date: April 23rd 2019
Email of Intent date: April 29th 2019
Application due date: May 13th 2019
Target Funding Start Date: July 1st 2019

Overview:
The UNH Center of Integrated Biomedical and Bioengineering Research (CIBBR) is dedicated to 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.

Award Information:
The CIBBR Pilot Project Program is intended to support research until May 31st 2020 to allow a research team to develop more substantial independent external support from the NIH. This program targets (1) faculty who seek to generate critical preliminary data for a planned NIH research project grant that fits the theme of the CIBBR and that will be submitted during the funding period, and (2) recently hired faculty conducting CIBBR-relevant research.

Up to $50,000 in direct costs may be requested in a pilot application. Priority will be given to supporting investigators who are about to submit or resubmit applications for NIH funding (especially the R01 or R35 mechanism). For resubmissions, investigators are asked to provide their summary statement and a draft “Introduction” page responding to the reviewers’ critiques. Pilot project applications utilizing one or more of the CIBBR Research Cores will also be viewed favorably. These cores include:

- Spectroscopy Core (Includes XPS and NMRs located in Parsons)
- Microscopy Core (Includes Confocal located in Parsons)
- Molecular Cellular Phenotyping Core (Includes EVOS, SpectraMax Microplate reader, Berthold Luminometer, Q—Sonica Sonicator for DNA Shearing located in Rudman Hall)
- Hubbard Center for Genome Studies (includes genomics and bioinformatics services)

Pilot Project Eligibility and Structure:
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. Awardees are required to cite the COBRE grant (NIH P20-GM 113131) on all publications. Also, awardees are required to participate in the annual COBRE reporting process.
4. Funding can be used to support students and post-docs, purchase supplies and/or services from internal or external core facilities, and pay for conference travel to present research findings. Support for PI salary is discouraged.
5. 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. Requests for equipment in excess of $10,000 should be discussed in advance with Kelley.Thomas@unh.edu.
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) and time table must be identified in the application.
Application process:
Potential applicants are encouraged to send and email of intent including the title of the project and a project summary prior to submission of a full proposal.

Proposal Application: Proposals must include the following materials using the PHS 398 forms (found [here](#))

- NIH Face Page
- NIH Project Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites (Page 2)
- Specific Aims page (1 page maximum)
- Research Strategy Section (Significance, Innovation, and Approach); recommended length, 2 pages
  - Significance (~250 words) should also include the biomedical relevance and impact of the proposed research to the CIBBR and to the career development of the faculty.
    - Scientific premise: Incorporate a brief description of the scientific premise for the proposed project in the Significance section.
  - Approach section should present an experimental plan that is feasible with the funds available and within the time frame of the project.
    - Key supporting data for the application can be provided as an Appendix.
    - Rigor and Transparency: The Approach section should address how robust, unbiased results will be obtained, as well as methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed project.
  - Products/outcomes and timeline: NIH grant applications, manuscript submissions, conference presentations, patent applications, etc. and the anticipated timeframe should be listed at the end of the Approach.
- IRB and/or IACUC approval (if applicable)
  - for animal studies, the Vertebrate Animal Section must be submitted
  - for studies with humans, please submit the Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
- Budget (UNH Excel file template) and budget justification
- For previous NIH submissions, please include the summary statement and your 1-page response to the critiques.
- Please provide the names of up to 3 senior biomedical/bioengineering researchers who might serve as an external scientific advisor to the project if funded.

Procedure for Submitting Proposals: Email of intent, proposal applications and supporting documents should be submitted as one PDF by email to:

Ashlee Warzin, Program Manager  
Subject of email: CIBBR 2019 Pilot Project Application – [Investigator Last Name]  
Ashlee.Warzin@unh.edu       Phone: 603-862-1745

Review process:
- The CIBBR Leadership Team (Rick Cote, Kelley Thomas, Don Wojchowski and Steve Fiering (Dartmouth)) 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.
- Following a scientific review of the application by the CIBBR Leadership Team, a written summary statement will be provided to the applicant.
- Applications that are recommended for funding will be forwarded to the CIBBR External Advisory Committee for their review and recommendation, followed by transmittal to NIGMS for their review and final approval to provide CIBBR funds for the project. Funds will be made available as soon as NIGMS approval is received.

Please direct any questions to CIBBR Director [Rick.Cote@unh.edu](mailto:Rick.Cote@unh.edu). More information about the Center of Integrated Biomedical and Bioengineering Research can be found on its [website](#).