

Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN) 2015 Competition for LBRN Start-up Funds

Deadlines

August 5, 2016,	Announcement of RFA
October 3, 2016	Letter of Intent
November 4, 2016	Full proposal due
January 16, 2017	Announcement of Award

Objective

The purpose of this LBRN RFA is to solicit requests for funds for biomedical research instrumentation from current faculty or groups of faculty (Instrumentation) and in separate applications for start-up funds (Start-up) for new faculty with biomedical research interests. This program allows new faculty with the support of the institution to compete for funds to purchase instrumentation and related supplies that may be beyond the means of the institution. The LBRN program is designed to only contribute partial support toward the purchase of instrumentation and related supplies. The expected start date for these projects is September 1, 2017, with up to 2 years of funding through August 31, 2019. The selection and distribution of these projects by the Steering Committee will be based on the quality of the proposal, the needs of the LBRN program and the needs of the LBRN PUI Partner campus. Proposed funding requests should be consistent with the program's focal research areas (listed below). All interested researchers are encouraged to contact Dr. Ramesh Subramanian (ramji@lsu.edu) prior to submitting a proposal to ensure that the proposed research is eligible for inclusion in this program.

Computational & Structural Biology

This area includes, for example, bioinformatics, development of new computational approaches to solving significant bio-medical questions, biological modeling or investigations of molecular structure.

Molecular Mechanism of Disease

This area includes investigations focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of significant human diseases, including, but not restricted to cancer, metabolic disorders, and infectious diseases.

Preventive Medicine

This area includes basic research important in the prevention of major human diseases. Research topics might include work such as the development vaccines, tissue engineering, drugs or new diagnostic tests.

Eligibility

The project is open to all new (on the PUI faculty for less than 12 months at the time of the RFA announcement) biomedical investigators at existing LBRN PUI campuses (GSU, LA Tech, LSUS, SLU, SUBR, ULM and Xavier) who are either:

- **Start-Up:** New faculty with significant interests in biomedical research as part of their start-up funding.

Total Funds Available

This program is designed to contribute partial support funding (usually half of the purchase price) up to \$25,000 Total Direct Costs per year for up to 2 years. Starting September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2019.

Applications must include a letter signed by the appropriate Dean or Department Chair which provides evidence of the demonstrated need and details the Institution's commitment to contribute the remaining funds needed to purchase the instrumentation and related supplies.

Letter of Intent

Prospective applicants are **required** to submit a letter of intent that includes the following information:

- Name, address, email and telephone number of the Principal Investigator
- Names of other key personnel
- State the research area focus in which your project fits.

The letter of intent should be submitted via online form via LBRN website no later than 4:30 pm on October 3, 2016.

Proposal Guidelines (Overview)

One of the goals of the LBRN program for Full Project researchers is that by the end of the LBRN funding they will have developed a successful NIH R15 application. To facilitate this process we require all applicants to follow the basic NIH R15 guidelines for developing their application. A detailed description of the LBRN program specific components can be found below. More information can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-d/research-forms-d.pdf>

The proposal should be submitted online application form as a single PDF formatted file to via the LBRN website no later than 4:30 pm, November 4, 2016. **LATE** submissions will **NOT** be accepted.

Proposal Guidelines (Detailed)

For general formatting instructions follow the current **SF 424** forms and guidelines, which can be found on the NIH Grant application website <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-d/research-forms-d.pdf>. The proposal should contain the following items:

- I. PHS 398 Forms (If mentor's Institution is different than the submitting Institution, forms from both Institutions are required)
 1. PHS 398 Face Page, signed by the applying Institution's Authorized Representative (form page 1)
 2. PHS 398 Project Summary (form page 2)
 3. PHS Research Grant Table of Contents (form page 3)
 4. Detailed Budget (form page 4) and Budget Justification (Continuation Page)
 5. PHS 398 NIH Checklist (398 checklist page)
 6. *Fringe / Indirect costs rate agreement (contact your Office of Sponsored Programs for copies of these documents)*

NOTE: While not required by NIH, any voluntary cost sharing and matching commitments of any kind (e.g., private sector, federal, institutional) that are pledged in the proposal must be clearly defined in the budget justification and honored in full if selected for funding.

- II. Research Plans/Project Description (12 page limit, use NIH Continuation Format Page):
 1. **Cover Letter** (required for resubmitted applications). For all revised or resubmitted applications, please include an introduction that describes what action was taken in proposal resubmission.
 2. **Cover page (Limit to 1 page)**

- Project title, include which category of funding is being requested
- Performance site(s)
- Lead project investigator or investigators if more than one person

3. **Abstract and Specific Aims (Limit to 1 page or less)**

4. **Background (Limit to 2 pages or less):** Describe rationale, significance, and potential impact.

5. **Research Plan and Timeline (Limit to 5 pages):** Describe how the funds will enhance the research capabilities of either the individual researcher (start-up funds) or multiple researchers (Shared-instrumentation).

- Describe specific research projects, which will be enhanced by this equipment/instrumentation. Delineate the hypotheses to be tested. Preliminary studies are NOT required for LBRN applications, but applicants with preliminary results should describe them. In the absence of preliminary results, applicants should describe the rationale and scientific basis for the proposed research and provide a strong research plan. Concisely state the importance and health relevance resulting from this equipment/instrumentation.
- Describe the nature and scope of any scientific research collaborations.
- Project Timeline (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2019)

6. **Investigators (limit to 1 page; use tables to present information where possible):** For project leaders, mentors, key personnel, and collaborators: Identify the institution, education level(s), and role in project.

a. The Investigator/s

i. Each investigator is responsible for ensuring that the project's goals are met. The research excellence of these projects will be enhanced by effectively using the scientific and technical strengths of collaborating investigators.

b. Collaborator/s - NA

7. **Environment and Resources (use Resources format page) (Limit to 2 pages or less):**

Provide details; use table format where possible.

- Research environment
- Research and Institutional Commitment
- Technical support
- Details of LBRN/COBRE infrastructure that will be utilized during the project
- Other

Additional Information. As appropriate to the proposed equipment/instrumentation use, include the following sections; There are no page limits on these sections.

- Human Subjects*
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children
- Vertebrate Animal Care and Welfare*
- Biohazards*
- Literature Cited/Reference List

**(if applicable, approval letter/s must be attached)*

III. NIH Biographical Sketch

- Research project investigators and mentors must provide a biographical sketch as indicated in the PHS 398 instructions. This section must not exceed four pages per person. Note that the NIH Biographical Sketch format changed in 2015. ([biosketch form and instructions](#))

Allowable Costs Include:

- Research equipment and instrumentation for laboratories
- Supplies for research

Start-up Project Selection Criteria

See the appropriate LBRN DRPP Application Review form for a detailed view of the review criteria.