Louisiana Biomedical Research Network – LBRN and Louisiana Clinical & Translational Science Center-LA CaTS Competition for Translational Science Projects

Objective

The purpose of this new program is to provide an additional opportunity for junior and senior LBRN PUI faculty to engage in clinical and translational research. It is specifically linked to LA CaTS through collaboration of faculty, training opportunities, infrastructural resources and partial funding. It is targeted at faculty with an interest to extend their research findings into translational and clinical studies. This should be an especially intriguing opportunity to bioinformatics problems related to diagnosis and treatment. While LBRN faculty are eligible and are encouraged to participate in the LA CaTS Pilot Project Program, providing a specific funding opportunity for LBRN PIs will ensure activity in this arena. The expected start date for this project is September 1, 2017 for 1 year of funding through August 31, 2018. The LBRN Steering Committee together with selected members of the LA CaTS Pilot Grants Program will make the selection and distribution of these projects. The projects will be based on the quality of the proposal and the needs of the INBRE and LA CaTS programs. Proposed projects should be consistent where possible with the program's focal research areas (listed below) and the interest of LA CaTS https://lacats.pbrc.edu/ . All interested researchers are encouraged to contact program coordinator Dr. Ramesh Subramanian (ramji@lsu.edu) prior to submitting a proposal to ensure that the proposed research is eligible for inclusion in this program and help with identifying collaborators.

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 or applied research important in the prevention, treatment or diagnosis of major human diseases. Research topics might include work such as the development of vaccines, tissue engineering, drugs or new diagnostic tests or data mining for diagnostic or epidemiologic purposes.

Regardless of the thematic area, all projects must involve the development and testing of novel technologies and hypotheses at both the basic and clinical levels that have potential to significantly enhance translational research and commercialization of inventions and discoveries. While pre-clinical studies maybe funded, priority will be given to projects that are further along the clinical research path. Projects that will be funded must be close to clinical implementation when completed. Studies to discover new drugs, vaccines or diagnostic tests in early developmental stages will not be considered. If you have questions in this regard address them to Dr. Ramesh Subramanian (ramji@lsu.edu**) who will discuss this with the administrative core.,**

Eligibility

The project is open to all investigators at existing LBRN PUI campuses (LA Tech, LSUS, SUBR, ULM, GSU, SLU and Xavier) who have not held a translational science award from NIH. The project **must** involve collaborations with investigators who have significant translational science experience at LA CaTS institutions (LSU Baton Rouge, LSU Health Science Center New Orleans, LSU Health Science Center Shreveport, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Xavier University, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, Research Institute for Children at Children's Hospital).

Examples of pilot projects funded by LA CaTS can be found on their web site https://lacats.pbrc.edu/research-funding/pilot-projects/

Total Funds Available

LBRN will fund up to $40,000 Total Direct Costs for 1 year, starting September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. LA CaTS will fund the partner/mentor up to $20,000 for their portion of the project as needed. This should be requested in a separate budget page noted below.

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 partners/mentors and other key personnel
- Descriptive title of proposed research
- State the translational research area focus in which your project fits

The letter of intent should be submitted via email to Dr. Ramesh Subramanian (ramji@lsu.edu) no later than 4:30 pm on October 3, 2016.

Deadlines

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

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 **PHS 398** forms and guidelines, which can be found on the NIH Grant application website http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html. The proposal should contain the following items:

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)
    a. Detailed Budget (form page 4 and 5) and Budget Justification (Continuation Page)

        Do not include mentor support in the PI's budget

    b. PI's budget (form page 4) Budget $40,000 Total Cost for the period May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017 - *Only up to 2 summer months salary support may be requested on the grant*
    c. Budget $40,000 Total Cost/year (form page 5 and Continuation Page for budget justification). The budget should include up to $40,000 Total Direct Costs that will be for funding of LBRN investigators.
4. PHS 398 NIH Checklist (398 checklist page)
5. *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 page (Limit to 1 page)**
    - Project title
    - Performance site(s)
    - Lead project investigator or investigators if more than one person
    - Key personnel (personnel who are in the budget); include LA CaTS Collaborator
    - Identify if the project includes human subjects and if any exemptions are claimed
    - Identify if vertebrate animals are included

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

3. ***Background and Preliminary Results (Limit to 2 pages or less):*** Describe rationale, significance, and potential impact. Include preliminary results only as needed to address these topics. Preliminary results are not a required element.

4. ***Research Plan and Timeline (Limit to 5 pages):*** Describe research approach(es) and innovation
    a. Describe the specific aims of the research project in an area that is a focus of the INBRE. Delineate the hypotheses to be tested. Preliminary studies are NOT required for INBRE 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 of the proposed research to the specific aims.
    b. Describe the nature and scope of any scientific research collaborations
    c. Project Timeline (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018)

5. ***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. <u>The candidate (Mentee)</u>
        i. A single investigator at the awardee or network institutions should supervise each research project. Each investigator is responsible for ensuring that the project's specific aims are met. The research excellence of these projects will be enhanced by effectively using the scientific and technical strengths of collaborating investigators/mentors. It is envisaged that collaborators at the LA CaTS institutions will serve a duel role of collaborator and mentor.

        ii. Individual development plan, including plans for developing a sustainable research program. See NIGMS website for more information.

        http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/StrategicPlanImplementationBlueprint/IndividualDevelopmentPlans.htm

        Note while the website describes these IDPs for post-doctoral researchers NIGMS has asked that we develop these for the INBRE researchers.

    b. <u>Collaborator/mentor</u>
        i. Collaborator should have translational research expertise relevant to the scientific area(s) to be developed within the INBRE. The collaborator will be from a LA CaTS institution. The collaborator will help oversee the proposed training and career development of promising investigators. Each project investigator should be assigned at least one collaborator.

        The collaborator is an established faculty member who has demonstrated the ability to advise others through the acquisition of external support and the maintenance of an independent research laboratory. Collaborator may

request up to 1.0 person month and should be listed in the individual projects' budget sections. The faculty investigators should clearly designate in the text the identity of their collaborator(s) and describe the qualifications, both scientific and advisory, that make them appropriate to assist in the oversight of the project. Letters of commitment from collaborator(s) should be included in the application.

2. **Environment and Resources** (use Resources format page) **(Limit to 2 pages or less):**
   Provide details; use table format where possible.
   a. Research environment
   b. Research and Institutional Commitment
   c. Technical support
   d. Details of LBRN/COBRE/LACaTS infrastructure that will be utilized during the project
   e. Other

Additional Information. As appropriate to the project, include the following sections; There are no page limits on these sections.

a. Human Subjects*
b. Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children
c. Vertebrate Animal Care and Welfare*
d. Biohazards*
e. 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)

IV. All Personnel Report Format Page

Allowable Costs:

Sharing resources between INBRE, COBRE, and LA CaTS investigators is strongly encouraged. If a core facility already exists for equipment and instrumentation supported by another program, these should not be proposed de novo in the INBRE application. However, if duplicate equipment is to be requested under this FOA, it should be appropriately justified. Under this FOA, COBRE and LACATS investigators are not eligible for research funding from INBRE as project investigators but rather as collaborators. Similarly, INBRE investigators may not receive simultaneous research project support from a COBRE program. COBRE and LACATS investigators may serve and be supported as collaborators/mentors in INBRE programs as appropriate.

Salary costs are allowable to the extent that they are reasonable; conform to the established policy of the organization consistently applied regardless of the source of funds; and reflect no more than the percentage of time actually devoted to the NIH-funded project. If full-time 12-month salaries are not currently paid to comparable staff

members, the salary proposed must be appropriately related to the existing salary.

It is expected that the LBRN research project investigators at the awardee institutions will devote at least 25 percent of their professional effort (equivalent to 3.0 person months) to career development and research activities. LBRN institutions must provide release time for project investigators, thus permitting a significant time commitment to the research enterprise. To allow flexibility to investigators who cannot devote 3 consecutive months throughout the year, the effort can be distributed over the year to achieve a total of 3 person months; (for example, 2 person months during academic year and 1 person months in summer to account for a yearly 3 person months effort). Institutional cost sharing (in terms of release time) is required.
For this translational project, which is considered approximately half of a full project in which 6 months total professional effort is required, the expectation is research project investigators will devote at least 25% (half of the effort required for a full project) of their professional effort (equivalent to 3.0 person months) to career development and research activities. Applications must include a letter signed by the appropriate Dean, Department Chair or Supervisor ensuring the applying PI will have this level of protected time - at least 25% of their professional effort (equivalent to 3.0 person months) to career development and research activities.

Other Allowable Costs Include:

- Research equipment and instrumentation for laboratories
- Supplies for research
- Salary support for undergraduate and graduate students and technical staff

Project Selection Criteria

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