

Pilot Project Call for Applications
Applications due February 28, 2019
Anticipated start date: June 1, 2019

NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence
Center for Host Pathogens Interactions

Summary: The Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) in Host Pathogens Interactions (HPI) at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences provides participating investigators with research support, mentoring, and access to Core lab services in a collegial, collaborative atmosphere. In anticipation of funding for the 4th consecutive year, the UND HPI CoBRE invites proposals for pilot projects to support promising research that fits well within the scientific theme of the Center. We anticipate supporting 2-3 new pilot projects at up to \$50,000 direct costs per year for one year with anticipated start date of June 1, 2019.

Preference will be given to research projects that have the potential of becoming a full research project for Phase II of this CoBRE. Preference will also be given to projects that extensively utilize one or more of the core labs (<http://med.und.edu/orgs/host-pathogen-interactions/>). The UND HPI CoBRE program is open to all full time UND faculty. It is expected that this program will attract investigators into the broader research area of host-microbe interactions at mucosal surfaces, foster new collaborations among new and existing investigators, and promote the utilization of flow cytometry, imaging and histopathology core facilities.

The objective of the Center for Host Pathogens Interactions is to support the thematic, multidisciplinary center that augments and expands our ability to gain further understanding of host-specific events that are critical to identify potential new targets for treatments of devastating diseases resulting from chronic inflammation at mucosal surfaces. Research projects must fit within the broad CoBRE theme of host-microbial interactions at skin, lung and gut mucosal surfaces. Successful applications may incorporate one or more of the following topics:

- Mucosal immune responses to infectious and non-infectious insults
- Chronic inflammation in neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases of mucosa
- Microbiome effects on health and disease states in the host
- Microbial manipulation of host immune processes

- Host responses that impact lung, gut and skin mucosal inflammation
- Investigations into understanding inflammatory processes in health and disease
- Development of new research tools to study host-microbe interactions
- Identification of new therapeutics, diagnostics, and treatments for infectious and inflammatory diseases

Criteria for evaluation of Pilot Project applications include:

- Strength of the science and the quality and clarity of its presentation;
- **Relevance to the focus of UND HPI CoBRE;**
- Likelihood of the pilot project becoming a competitive project for Phase II CoBRE application;
- Likelihood of productivity by the conclusion of this pilot grant funding;
- A clear, detailed plan for utilization of one or more CoBRE Core Laboratories;
- Career status of the applicant;
- Previous productivity and research funding, both attempted and successful.

CoBRE Projects must have a single Principal Investigator who will be responsible for the scientific direction and management of the project. Collaborators can be included if the collaboration provides expertise necessary to the proposed research and not held by the PI. Any collaborators receiving CoBRE funds must be associated with a North Dakota institution.

General Terms and Conditions of Pilot Project Awards:

1. **Funds will be released in two 6-monthly installments. Funded investigators will report the progress of the project to the CoBRE Principle Investigators at the end of first 6 months. The second installment of funds will be released contingent upon the progress made.**
2. Funds may be used for consumable supplies, services or small laboratory hardware (nothing >\$5,000).
3. Personnel costs are allowable but preference will be given to applications that name specific individuals who are assured to be present on-site, eligible to work and ready to begin no later than July 1, 2019. PI salary support is not allowable.
4. Travel costs and tuition costs are not allowed.
5. Investigators who receive CoBRE support are required to participate fully in the regular research meetings of the Center, as well as seminars, symposia, workshops and other special activities organized or sponsored by the Center.
6. Submission of an R-level (R01, R21, or P01) grant for extramural support during the funding period.
7. A standard NIH-type progress report (ca. 2 pages in length) is required from each CoBRE project investigator by February 01, 2020, for inclusion in the annual CoBRE progress report to NIH.
8. Term and budget adjustments: The CoBRE PIs reserve the right to make term and budget adjustments in accordance with the intent of the Host Pathogen-CoBRE program and NIH policies concerning scientific overlap of projects.

9. Unanticipated new requirements: By accepting CoBRE funds, awardees agree to comply with any and all requirements not already mentioned that may be imposed on CoBRE by NIH or other institutional authorities.

Prospective applicants with questions about eligibility, program details, or the "fit" of their project to the CoBRE theme are encouraged to contact Dr. Jyotika Sharma (701-777-2624; ijotika.sharma@med.und.edu).

The Application Process:

Applications should be prepared in general accord with the NIH PHS 398 application guidelines, (3/2016 revision, available from <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>).

Include:

1. NIH Face Page (Form Page 1)
2. NIH Pages Two and Three: Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem cells
3. NIH Detailed Budget (Form Page 4). Allowable costs include salary support for graduate students or staff and supplies. Funds cannot be used for PI's salary, travel, and equipment purchases greater than \$5,000.
4. Budget/Personnel justification
5. Biographical Sketch(es) of PI and Key Personnel
6. Research Plan/Proposal (**three-page limit** utilizing at 10 pt. font with single spacing and including specific aims, significance, innovation, and research strategy. Bibliography is not included in the three-page limit)
7. If a previous UND HPI CoBRE Pilot Grant awardee, History or Success from Prior Awards (one page maximum outlining the progress on that prior work, including publications and extramural funding)
8. NIH Human subjects, if applicable
9. Vertebrate animal justification and protection, if applicable

In addition, please observe the following:

- The research plan may not exceed three (3) pages in length including figures and tables but excluding references (which must be complete citations in the NIH style).
- All figures and their lettering must be large enough to be clearly legible. Legibility of all provided material is the responsibility of the applicant.
- Missing or inaccurate information may disqualify your application from consideration.
- **IRB, IBC, and IACUC approvals must be secured prior to grant funds being released (June 1, 2019). If compliance approvals are not obtained within 30 days of the anticipated start date (June 1, 2019), the grant funds may be forfeited.**

Expectations

Investigators funded through this mechanism will be strongly encouraged to participate in the mentoring program offered by this CoBRE. Investigators are required to participate as fully as

possible in CoBRE research meetings, symposia, and seminars. The use of core facilities supported by the CoBRE is strongly encouraged for the proposed studies. The awardees will be required to submit a progress report including publications as well as proof of an R-level (R01, R21 or P01) grant for extramural support. Awardees are required to cite the CoBRE grant (NIH P20GM113123) on all publications.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to Ms. Kim Dickman (kim.dickman@und.edu) by 5 p.m. February 28, 2019. Awards are scheduled to begin June 1, 2019, in anticipation of the 4th year funding.

Evaluation:

Each CoBRE Pilot Project will be evaluated in two steps. In the first step, proposals will be evaluated based on scientific merit using the NIH scoring system. Proposals will be scored on a scale of 1 (best) through 9 (worst) based on significance, investigators, innovation, approach, environment (pertaining to research being proposed and the use of core labs), and an overall impact score (based on the high likelihood of success as a fully developed NIH proposal and the scope of work corresponding to the priorities of the CoBRE program). In the second step, the CoBRE Internal Advisory Committee will determine which grants to recommend for funding based on the priority scores and the CoBRE mission. Final approval for funding will be made by the External Advisory Committee, with approval from the NIH.

Contact:

For additional information, please contact Dr. Jyotika Sharma (701-777-2624; jyotika.sharma@med.und.edu).