

Call for Applications for Imaging Related Pilot Project Grants

Nebraska Center for Nanomedicine (NCN)

It is recognized that adding non-invasive imaging studies to characterize biodistribution and efficacy is difficult and expensive. This Request for Applications is designed to remove the steep initial barrier to investigating the ability of imaging methods to enhance studies developing nanoformulated drugs. This funding is available to support costs of imaging and image processing among current and potential future NCN CoBRE investigators and their collaborators.

One of our major goals is to support projects where it is judged likely that the investigators will generate a peer-reviewed manuscript and submit meritorious proposals to external agencies within 6 months after the completion of the NCN pilot project. Another goal is to promote appropriate application and use of NCN core technology, especially the UNMC Bioimaging Core Facility.

Budget Guidelines:

Awards will be made for **1 year** with funded amounts up to **\$10,000 per project**.

The budget must not exceed \$10,000 total.

The budget will cover time charges for instrument use. MRI scan costs are \$160/hr and SPECT/CT time charges are \$100/hr. Time charges includes the cost of a trained technologist for animal handling and scanning as well as aid and training for data processing and interpretation.

The funds are to be used to offset the high cost of imaging services, allowing meritorious use of these facilities at no cost to the investigator.

Timelines:

Submission deadline: July 15, 2015

Peer Review Date(s): August 30, 2015

Start Date(s): October 01, 2015

Application Instructions:

- Format: Three to five page description of the proposed project, following the NIH format guidelines (specific aims, research strategy, narrative, abstract, etc.).
- The proposal should include clear plans outlining the contents of the manuscript to be submitted upon completion of the project as well as plans for future funding requests.
- Applications must be submitted electronically to Chris Allmon (callmon@unmc.edu) **no later than July 15, 2015, 2015.**

Eligibility and Requirements:

- All full time faculty at UNMC are eligible. The project must clearly include the development of nanoformulated medications.
- **Early-stage investigators are strongly encouraged to apply.**
- Individuals with transient commitments to or from their institutions will not be eligible. Thus, post-doctoral fellows and visiting professors and investigators with no more than adjunct appointments are not eligible.

- It is our intention to fund those projects most likely to result in meritorious applications being submitted to external funding agencies such as the NIH.
- We will accept applications seeking support for projects that already have seed grant support from other sources. However, such applications must make it unambiguously clear how NCN funds will add to the likelihood of a meritorious proposal being submitted.
- We ask that applicants verify that all regulatory affairs requirements are being satisfied and, if applicable, provide IACUC protocol numbers. If such protocols have not yet been approved, the investigators will be obligated to provide evidence of protocol approval (protocol number and approved application) before funding can commence.
- **We require a final progress report sent to the NCN no later than 30 days after the end of pilot grant support.** The reports will contain a summary of progress and scholarly activities such as presentations and publications. These annual/final reports will be reviewed by the NCN internal advisory committee and then the reports will be included as part of our annual progress report to the NIH.

Review of Applications:

We will have proposals evaluated for scientific merit by our Internal Advisory Board. As in the past for internal review mechanisms like this, we will not be providing detailed critiques of proposals that are not recommended for funding.

Please direct all questions to Michael Boska at mboska@unmc.edu or 559-3138 or Tatiana Bronich at tbronich@unmc.edu or 559-9351.

Good luck.