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

Deadlines
September 9, 2014  Announcement of RFA
October 1, 2014  Letter of Intent
November 3, 2014  Full proposal due
January 1, 2015  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. In both cases requests are limited to instrumentation and related supplies. The expected start date for these projects is May 1, 2015, with up to 2 years of funding through April 30, 2017. 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. Bill Wischusen (ewischu@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 biomedical investigators at existing LBRN PUI campuses (GSU, LA Tech, LSUS, SLU, SUBR, ULM and Xavier) who are either:

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

Total Funds Available
The funding available is $25,000 per year for up to 2 years. These funds must be matched by at least 1:1 up to a total of $25,000 or more depending on the match. Starting May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2017.

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

  o Name, address, email and telephone number of the Principal Investigator
  o Names of other key personnel
  o 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 1, 2014.

**Proposal Guidelines (Overview)**
The proposal should contain the following items:
- PHS 398 Forms
- Research Plans/Project Description(s)
- NIH Biographical Sketches

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 3, 2014. 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](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). The proposal should contain the following items:

I. **PHS 398 Forms**

1. Face Page (form page 1)
2. Detailed Budget (form page 4) and Budget Justification (Continuation Page)

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).

   a. 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.

   b. Describe the nature and scope of any scientific research collaborations

   c. Project Timeline (May 1, 2015-April 30, 2017)

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**

7. **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 infrastructure that will be utilized during the project
   e. Other

Additional Information. As appropriate to the proposed equipment/instrumentation use, 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**

   a. 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.

IV. **All Personnel Report Format Page**

Allowable Costs Include:
   o Research equipment and instrumentation for laboratories
   o Supplies for research

**New Research Project Selection Criteria**

1. How well does this project fit into the current LBRN research themes (Computational & Structural Biology, Molecular Mechanism of Disease and Preventive Medicine)?
2. What is the impact of the requested instrumentation on this researcher or group of researchers ability to move to the next level during the next 2-5 years.
3. What is the breadth of the impact of the instrumentation on a biomedical question? Does the proposed research problem have the potential to advance the concepts or methods that drive the field and scientific knowledge in general.
4. Are the approaches appropriate to the question/s being investigated? Are the research plan, specific aims, experimental design, methodology, consideration of alternatives, data analysis, scope, and timetable appropriate.
5. What is the extent to which the research takes advantage of any unique features of the scientific environment or employs productive collaborative arrangements?
6. Is there evidence of departmental or institutional support for the researcher or researchers? Include adequacy of research support resources and availability of any specialized facilities needed.
7. Is there significant potential for the activities associated with this project to advance the biomedical educational climate on campus?