

Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) for Skeletal Health and Repair – Request for Programmatic Grant Planning Proposals

The purpose of the COBRE for Skeletal Health and Repair Request for Programmatic Grant Planning Proposals (PGPP) is to support new, multidisciplinary, and translational research that can specifically be considered as the first step in developing a programmatic grant within the focus of the musculoskeletal system. It may include but is not restricted to musculoskeletal tissue development and aging, joint health and disease mechanisms, and treatment and repair strategies. A mission of the COBRE for Skeletal Health and Repair, currently in its third and final phase, is to transition to a multi-disciplinary research center supported by extramural Programmatic Grant(s). This request aims to bring investigators from different research disciplines together to develop a scientifically innovative and medically significant Programmatic Grant. A Programmatic Grant must include both research projects and support cores. The target funding mechanism should be identified and may include Program Project/Center Grants (P series) and team science grants from various institutes at the NIH, DOD, and other extramural funding sources.

The PGPP must have a realistic potential for future success in attracting external support at the program level. In consultation with the External Advisory Committee (EAC) of this COBRE, awards of up to \$50,000 for an 8-month period will be awarded, which may be renewable for an additional year depending on progress.

Eligibility

- All proposals should be relevant to musculoskeletal research, which includes but is not restricted to the cells and tissues in cartilage, bone, muscle, tendon, and synovium, or at the systems level.
- The Principal Investigator(s) of the PGPP must have an active faculty appointment (fellows, residents and students are not eligible) at Rhode Island Hospital, Brown University, or any other higher education institution in Rhode Island. However, the PI of an individual research project or core within the PGPP may be a faculty member of an institution outside of Rhode Island.

Amount and Duration of Awards

- Initial awards can be **up to \$50,000/year (direct cost) for 8 months**. Part of the funding can be in the form of vouchers for core facilities of the COBRE including Imaging, Molecular Biology, and Nanomedicine Core and Bioengineering Core.
- **The term of the initial award is January 1 – August 31, 2019**. Budgets should be planned for 8 months of funding. A progress report is due at 4 months (by May 1, 2019) and a final report is due by October 31, 2019.
- If during the term of the project, the Principal Investigator transfers to another institution outside of Rhode Island, funding is not transferable.

The proposal should include the following items in the following order:

1. **Abstract** (300 word limit) describing the proposed program project and the research projects and support cores it contains.
2. **Body of the proposal** (should not exceed 5 pages including figures, formatted in accordance with NIH guidelines)
 1. **Specific Aims.** Describe the overall aim as well as the aims for each research project and support core.
 2. **Significance and Innovation.** Summarize the premise and the important problem the proposal seeks to address. Describe the novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
 3. **Approach.** A description of the proposed research projects and cores and the overall plan of how the specific aims are achieved through collaboration of the multidisciplinary projects and cores.
3. **Supporting documents for the proposal** (bibliography/references) (no page limit).
4. **Budget with justification.** The budget should have general itemized categories of expenses for which award funds will be used and a brief justification for these expenses. It is meant to support the planning activities that make the program project application stronger (e.g., performing a critical experiment or obtaining an important piece of preliminary data). Funds cannot be used for indirect costs or equipment purchase. (1 page)
5. **Strategy for Programmatic Development and Funding.** Proposals should present a rationale for 1) identification of a federal agency to attract extramural funding, 2) the time table for submission of the program project application (1 page)
6. **Current NIH biosketch for each key personnel named in the project.** Each person's role in the PGPP should be clearly outlined. Biosketch of the PI and the leader of each project and/or core should be included.
7. **Endorsements.** A letter of support is required from the applicant's department chair(s) discussing the proposal's importance in terms of the selection criteria. This letter of support should include a commitment from the chair for adequate time and resources to complete the project.

Criteria for Selection

The overall merit of the research project will be considered and evaluated by the EAC of the COBRE. The EAC is composed of scientists outside of the COBRE and the state of Rhode Island. All applications will be reviewed and scored by the EAC. The final selection will be made based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the focus area of musculoskeletal tissues, cells and systems.
- Potential to provide a foundation for the development of a programmatic grant in musculoskeletal tissues, cells and systems.
- Potential for advancing knowledge in skeletal and joint health.
- Significance and innovation.

- Usage of this COBRE's core facilities: Bioengineering Core, and Imaging, Molecular Biology, and Nanomedicine Core.
- Likelihood that the proposed project could receive extramural funding.
- Appropriateness of proposed budget.
- Qualifications of the Principal Investigator and team.

Proposal Submission

Questions regarding the PGPP should be directed to Dr. Qian Chen, Qian.Chen@Brown.edu. The proposals and supporting documents should be submitted via email to RALberg@lifespan.org by **November 1, 2018**. Please put COBRE PGPP APPLICATION in the subject line of the email. Selections will be announced by January 1, 2019.