



Center of Biomedical Research and Excellence (COBRE) On Opioids and Overdose

Request for Pilot Project Applications

The new National Institutes of Health-funded COBRE on Opioids and Overdose at Rhode Island Hospital aims to establish excellence in research on opioids and overdose.

Our multi-disciplinary, thematic research center is responding not only to an epidemic, but also to a significant gap in research locally and nationally. By bringing together researchers, policymakers, public health officials, community-based organizations, and a range of scientists from complementary disciplines, we seek to contribute to the scientific community and to help shape the policies and practices that will curb this epidemic at the community-level.

Our approach to the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose reflects valuable lessons learned in RI regarding the crucial need for more research regarding the treatment, diagnosis and prevention of opioid use disorder, as well as how essential it is to quickly and effectively translate research evidence into policy practice.

The long-term goal of the Center is to develop and sustain a critical mass of investigators specializing in opioids and overdose that benefits affected populations and enhances the competitiveness of affiliated investigators. The COBRE is funded by a 5-year grant to Rhode Island Hospital from the National Institutes on General Medical Sciences (PI: Dr. Josiah Rich).

Pilot Project Overview

The pilot project grant is available through the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose to interested early stage or established investigators at all Rhode Island-based higher educational institutions, research centers and hospitals. We seek to support a portfolio of compelling biomedical and interdisciplinary research projects with potential for future NIH or other competitive funding. In addition, pilot project investigators are expected to participate in COBRE meetings and activities, and in career development activities to enhance skills for academic and research success. Based on available funding, we anticipate funding 3-5 pilot projects per year for research pertaining to opioids and overdose.

Award

An Investigator may request funding of up to \$40,000 per year in direct costs for one year, with potential for extensions in rare cases.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants may include post-doctoral fellows ready to make the transition to junior faculty positions, junior faculty, as well as established faculty. Applicants are encouraged from all Rhode Island Colleges and universities, and affiliated research hospitals, institutions and centers.

Key Dates

Applications will be due at 5:00 pm on the 1st of any month. Requests for pilot project funding are evaluated on a rolling basis.

Start date: Within 3 months of initial submission date.

Application Process

Applications will follow a shortened NIH grant proposal format. Applications should be submitted as one PDF file to the Administrative Coordinator.

Applications should include the following components:

Face Page

Should include applicant name, academic title, institution, address, title of project, and institution's grants management official.

Project Summary

Include a one page summary of the proposal.

Specific Aims

Describe the project goals for the 1 year pilot project period. No more than ½ page recommended.

Budget

Itemized budget for funding period including brief budget justification. Costs for equipment (>\$1,000) or renovation are not permitted. Direct costs only will be funded.

CV

Include current CV or Biosketch if available.

Research Strategy

No more than 3 pages. The Research Strategy should include the following:

Significance: Include overall significance of the project, including relevance to goals of the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose, and plans for use of data from the pilot project for subsequent independent funding.

Innovation: Include both conceptual and any technical innovation.

Approach: Preliminary data and research plan, including expected results and alternative approaches. Preliminary data is not required, but encouraged.

Additional Documentation

If the project involves human subjects and/or clinical trials, additional documentation (NIH form PHS398, plans for data and safety monitoring) and approval will be required.

Review Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee (EC) on or about the third week of every month. Applications will be reviewed using NIH scoring criteria and for scientific merit including significance, investigators, innovation, and approach. In addition, reviews will include relevance to the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose goals of enhancing research in this field, potential for future independent funding, and institutional support.

Applications recommended for funding by the EC and Internal Advisory Committee will be considered for final approval by the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose's External Advisory Committee (EAC). Funding is contingent on approval by the EAC.

Contact

Please direct all inquiries and applications to the Administrative Coordinator Gayle Fraser at gfraser@lifespan.org (401-793-4783).