THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

AMC21 RELOAD 2017
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

2017 SOM Planning Grants for Multi-Investigator Programs

PURPOSE: The UAB School of Medicine invites exploratory/developmental grant applications for the establishment of an infrastructure for eventual applications for multi-investigator research programs, such as Program Project grants (P01), SPORE grants, Center grants (P30, P50 or P60), U-series grants or Multi-PI R01 grants from NIH or other funding agencies. The Multi-PI R01 grants should have inter-related projects, at least 3 PIs, and should be requesting more than the standard modular budget allows. **Please note: standard R01 type applications will not be considered responsive to this RFA.** The purpose of these grants is to enable SOM faculty members to organize and integrate multi-disciplinary teams of accomplished investigators that will compete successfully for long-term support from funding agencies. Support will provide them with the opportunity to prove the feasibility of their working as a cohesive team and aid in the acquisition of resources, preliminary data, and/or administrative support needed to operate as an interdisciplinary research program.

DURATION: Up to two (2) years.

RANGE OF REQUESTED FUNDS: Up to **$150,000**/year per application.

ELIGIBILITY: The overall PI of the application must have a primary appointment in a Department within the SOM, and a record of accomplishment in the subject area. All participating PIs must have a primary or secondary appointment in a SOM Department. **The overall theme of the research should be relevant to the mission of the SOM AMC21 Strategic plan, specifically the five focus areas of** 1) Personalized Medicine and Genomics; 2) Informatics; 3) Fundamentals of Basic Science Discovery; 4) Outcomes/Health Disparities; and 5) Inflammation, Infection and Immunity (I3). Interdepartmental collaborations are encouraged if scientifically appropriate, and each program should involve a minimum of three faculty. The program can include projects that are basic science, translational science, clinical science, or any combination.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: It is anticipated that **2-3** grants, based on scientific merit, will be awarded during FY18. Funding for the award will be limited to a maximum of **$150,000**/yr., and a project period of up to two years, pending appropriate progress and achieving benchmarks. One critical benchmark for a second year of support will be submission of grant application in the first year of the award. Because the scope and nature of the proposed research will vary from application to application, the size of the award may vary. Funds provided under this award can be utilized for support of critical pilot projects, development of core facilities, support for non-faculty personnel, and other expenses that are crucial to developing a competitive proposal.

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LETTER OF INTENT: Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted online via the SOM research funding website https://apps.medicine.uab.edu/funding/multipiinfo.asp. You will need your Blazer ID and password to access the site. Complete the requested fields on the form and then upload the **ONE PAGE** letter of intent as a pdf, naming the file with the last name of the PI (i.e., Vickers, pdf).

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DEADLINE FOR LETTER OF INTENT: 5:00 PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017.

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REVIEW PROCEDURES: LOIs will be reviewed by leadership in the SOM. Evaluation will be based on the track record of the principal investigator, the potential for funding, and how well the proposal fits the identified research focus area(s). The first round of the review will identify a subset to be invited to submit a full application.

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NOTIFICATION FOR SUBMISSION OF FULL APPLICATION: MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017.

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FULL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
- ➢ **Cover Page** – include Title of project, Investigators names, Budget amount requested, Duration of award, Abstract of proposed work, and Signatures of Investigators.
- ➢ **Key Personnel, Budget and Budget Justification**.
- ➢ **Proposal** – 4 single-spaced pages.
- ➢ **Biosketches** – include a NIH Biosketch for all key personnel.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL SHOULD INCLUDE (4 pages):
- ➢ Clear and concise description of the central theme and goals of the program. This needs to include how your proposal relates to the three focus areas listed above (it may relate to one or more). **Provide a 3-sentence description of relationship to particular focus area.**
- ➢ Overview of the proposed team and the interactions among individual team members.
- ➢ Explanation of how the proposal will lead to successful external funding from the NIH or other funding agency (provide specifics if known RFA's are available).
- ➢ Description of existing/proposed core facilities that would support research activities.
- ➢ Plan for the distribution and management of funds.
- ➢ **IMPORTANT:** An overall timeline, which shows progress (include planning meetings, collaborative manuscripts, discussion of preparation of the external application, and anticipated date for submission).

Successful awardees will be expected to provide a Progress Report and meet with SOM leaders every six months.

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FULL APPLICATION: 5:00 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017.

For information regarding applications and electronic submission, please contact **Gwynne Mountz** at gwynne@uab.edu.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Can faculty salary support be requested?
Answer: No-only support for non-faculty personnel can be requested.
2. If a co-investigator or a component of the project is from another institution, can support be provided?
Answer: No-support for this RFA must stay at UAB and be used internally. There are complex issues with indirects at other institutions that make it untenable to provide support outside of UAB.
3. If the investigators are proposing a project or experiments that require IRB, IACUC, FDA approval (IND approval) before the project can begin, can they use the JIT "option" and not start the regulatory paperwork unless the project is chosen for funding?
Answer: Yes.
4. Can the investigator request pilot funding for projects that will be submitted to non-NIH entities for funding?
Answer: Yes – the investigator can send applications to other federal agencies (i.e. DOD, DARPA, NSF etc.) or foundations, however highly competitive applications that are targeted to NIH are preferred.
5. Can the PI of the pilot grant application be from another institution?
Answer: No-the PI of any multi-investigator grant must be a faculty member in the UAB SOM.
6. Can NIH budget forms and NIH biosketch be used for this application?
Answer: Yes.
7. Are the proposals required to go through OSP?
Answer: No

Questions regarding scientific issues should be addressed to:	
Anupam Agarwal, M.D.	Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Dean, SOM	Senior Associate Dean for Research
Phone: 205-996-6680	Administration, SOM
Email: agarwal@uab.edu	**Phone:** 934-7667
	Email: tika@uab.edu

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SCHEDULE:

Friday, August 18, 2017 – Announcement

Monday, October 2, 2017 – Deadline for Receipt of one page Letter of Intent

Monday, October 16, 2017 – Letter of Intent Reviews Complete - Notification for Full Submissions

Monday, December 4, 2017 – Full Application Submission Deadline

Friday, December 15, 2017 – Administrative Review Complete

Monday, January 1, 2018 – Funding Start Date

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.   Anupam Agarwal, M.D.
Senior Vice President for Medicine and   Executive Vice Dean, SOM
Dean, UAB SOM

Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Research Administration, SOM