NIH NIGMS COBRE PHASE III PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Guidelines for Proposal Submission

Deadline for Proposal Submission: December 17, 2021

Award Period: May 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023 (Pending Final NIH Approval)

Overview of the COBRE Research Pilot Project Program

The Mind Research Network NIGMS-funded Multimodal Imaging of Neuropsychiatric Disorders Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (MIND COBRE) is soliciting applications for multidisciplinary pilot projects that fit within or expand upon the existing MIND COBRE infrastructure and its theme of multimodal imaging of neuropsychiatric illnesses. Projects that synergize across existing initiatives in psychosis, traumatic brain injury, aging, substance abuse and neurodevelopment are especially encouraged. Preference will also be given to applications that include neuromodulation and/or more innovative data collection methods to increase the likelihood of future grant success. However, any project using COBRE or MRN resources may be judged as competitive for pilot funding. Please submit budgets up to a maximum of $35K in non-scan direct costs and up to $25K in scan direct costs. The pilot project program is designed to provide one year of support and training for investigators (individuals must have a PhD and/or MD/DO) who have an interesting idea that will lead to a grant submission. NIH regulations exclude post-doctoral fellows from the pilot funding mechanism. There is the potential for additional renewal funding for especially promising projects. The COBRE cores include 1) MDA: multimodal data acquisition (MRI/MEG), 2) ADA: algorithm and data analysis, 3) BNI: biostatistics and neuroinformatics. If appropriate, applicants should identify a mentor or mentors from the existing COBRE senior faculty.

See https://www.mrn.org/common/cobre-phase-3 for details on MRN's COBRE.

Objectives of this Research Program

This FOA will support Pilot Projects to enhance or adapt ongoing successful projects, or initiate new ones, to expand research in the areas of multimodal neuroimaging and/or neuromodulation.
The programmatic goals of these pilot grants are:

- To produce preliminary data that will enhance the competitiveness of a new or resubmitted application for an NIH R03, R15, R21, R01, or other externally funded awards.
- To grow neuroimaging and neuromodulation research in New Mexico and the IDeA network.
- To enhance the use of our COBRE research cores, equipment and infrastructure.
- To grow the Center of Excellence COBRE program by recruiting new participating members.
- Recruit a pool of PIs to be part of future COBRE applications.

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards

- The number of awards is contingent upon NIH appropriations and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.
- NIH/MRN intends to fund an estimated 2-4 awards per year, corresponding to a maximum of $250K per year.
- Individual award budget up to a maximum $60,000 direct costs for one year.
- The maximum period of performance is 1 year, and competitively renewable.
- NIH grants policies as described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement will apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this FOA.

Applicants given priority for funding will be Junior Faculty (Research Scientist and Assistant Professor). Projects may be considered for renewal for a second year on a case-by-case basis and contingent upon internal and external advisory committee evaluation of an annual progress report, which will be included in the renewal submission.

Proposal Format and Submission:

The deadline for applications is December 17th, 2021. Applications can be emailed to Rebecca Dodd (rdodd@mrn.org). Applications for a COBRE Pilot Project will follow a NIH style format as outlined below. Submitted applications will be reviewed by members of the COBRE Internal Review Committee (IRC). Meritorious applications will be sent along with internal reviews to an External Advisory Committee (EAC) for recommendation of funding. Projects will be ranked based on merit and in accordance with the overall research goals of the COBRE award. Proposals should be sent as a single pdf file and include the following information:

Project Narrative (no more than 3 pages):

Describe your project, including the following elements:

1. Title
2. PI/mentor(s) [if junior PI] & Co-Is
3. Relationship of project to COBRE cores (1 paragraph, describe how the project will leverage the COBRE cores)
4. Specific aims - Containing a brief background, testable hypothesis, and aims.
5. Research Strategy

- Significance - The importance of the scientific question should be addressed. The applicant should expound on how the project will improve knowledge in the area.
- Innovation - Applicants should discuss the novelty of the hypothesis, approach, technology, and/or interventions.
- Approach - Rationale for each Aim: If available, present data that supports the rationale for moving in this research direction and testing the hypothesis proposed for each aim.
    - As part of the Approach section, please specify whether you have had previous MRN COBRE funding in the past and whether that has resulted in a grant application.

6. 1 page bibliography
7. Research plan & timeline
8. Future plans (1 paragraph describing specific timeline that will lead to future grant submissions that will in turn include support for the established COBRE cores). It is strongly recommended to explicitly include specific grant RFA or parent award numbers and planned submission date.

Additional Required Information:

1. Brief project budget and budget justification
   Applicants may request funds for technical support (research staff salary), research supplies/consumables, and other costs for conducting the study; however, pilot funds may not be used for the following: graduate student stipends, postdoctoral trainee salary, laboratory renovations, equipment costing more than $5,000, computers, administrative support, or subscriptions/memberships to societies or journals. Travel fees in excess of $1000 are not allowed. Budgets submitted are subject to modifications.
2. NIH biosketches for PI and primary collaborators
3. PHS 398 fp1, cover page (form)
4. PHS 398 fp2, pages 2-3 (summary, relevance, performance site and key personnel) (form)
5. PHS Human Subjects & Clinical Trial form (form)
6. PHS Study Record (with all necessary attachments loaded in form (form)

Additional forms required by NIH (forms can be downloaded at the following link) . Please email rdodd@mrn.org if you have trouble accessing forms.

Applicable IRB and/or IACUC approvals must be obtained prior to submission to EAC/NIH for approval for the disbursement of funds. Studies requiring IACUC/IRB approval should therefore anticipate submitting their protocol to IACUC/IRB within one month of pilot award approval. Note that additional materials will be required if the study is classified as a clinical trial (as defined by NIH). Delays in submitting for IACUC/IRB approval or other study delays may result in additional monitoring and/or retraction of the pilot award if the aims of the project are unable to be achieved.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After the peer review of the application is completed, the PI will be emailed their award letter. Award dates are expected to be announced on, or about January 21st, 2022.

Awardees will be required to submit brief bi-annual reports, as well as to present their progress to the COBRE group once per year. A final progress report will also be required.

Funding Restrictions

All NIH awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/nihgps.pdf). Pre-award costs are not allowable.