



Tulane Center of Excellence in Sex-Based Biology & Medicine

Tulane Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in
Sex-Based Precision Medicine

Letters of Intent Now Accepted for Tulane COBRE in Sex-based Precision Medicine Pilot Project Program

Letters of Intent (LOI) are due electronically by 5 pm on April 30, 2024. They should be emailed to Dr. Weiwei Xu (sbm@tulane.edu).

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tulane Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Sex-based Precision Medicine (COBRE-SPM) anticipates awarding three pilot projects for the 2024-2025 funding period. The purpose of the award is to provide critical start-up funds to catalyze innovative, groundbreaking research that leads to the submission of successful NIH RO1 or equivalent grant applications in the SPM area.

SUPPORT

The COBRE-SPM will solicit one basic sciences pilot project (total budget of \$50,000 direct costs), one clinical pilot project (total budget of \$75,000 direct costs), and one transdisciplinary project of convergence research from a transdisciplinary research team involving several schools/universities (total budget of \$75,000 direct costs). There are no indirect costs associated with this award.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicants:

1. must hold faculty appointment
2. must propose research in the area of SPM
3. are early-stage investigators or new investigators (ESI/NI) with no prior NIH support
 - ESI: completed terminal degree within the past 10 years and never been PI of an NIH independent research award (R01-like)
 - NI: never been PI of a substantial NIH independent research award (R01-like)
4. are established investigators with a new research direction in SPM leading to an RO1 application in SPM

APPLICATION

Letter of Intent should consist of:

1. project description of two pages in length with
 - descriptive title
 - significance of this research to the field of SPM
 - brief description of hypothesis
 - specific aims



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- brief explanation of the plans for submission of an R01 application, a statement regarding IACUC/IRB approvals, if needed
- any figures and essential references (optional)
- 2. an NIH Biosketch
- 3. if applicable, a summary statement for a reviewed R01 application (related to SPM), along with one page explaining how the proposed pilot project will address the critique

The documents should be submitted as a single pdf file in the indicated order.

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

Priority will be given to proposals that:

1. strongly align with the COBRE SPM focus
2. demonstrate strong potential by the ESI/NI to generate preliminary data for new federal grant applications or developed into a future COBRE Research Project

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Utilization of the Sex-based Precision Medicine Research Core (contact Research Core Director, Dr. David Crosslin at spmrc@tulane.edu for inquiries) and cohorts available to Tulane (e.g., BHS, REACHNet, All of Us, NC3, RECOVER, and eMERGE) is highly encouraged.

SELECTION PROCESS

An internal COBRE Executive Committee will review and score the LOIs. Applicants will be notified by email of the review results within approximately 10 days after LOI submission. Please note that we are not able to provide a critique.

A subset of selected applicants will be invited to provide a full proposal within three weeks of notification. The full proposal should be prepared according to NIH R21 instructions using PHS398 format pages. No institutional routing is necessary. The full application will be reviewed by the Pilot Project Review Committee. The awards will be made following the COBRE External Advisory Committee and NIGMS approval.

Applicants whose work involves vertebrate animals and/or human subjects should begin the IACUC/IRB approval concurrently with the preparation of the full proposal to assure a timely start of funding, as NIGMS requires all approvals to be in place. IRB and IACUC protocol approval letters must bear the title of the pilot project proposal or a statement that indicates that the proposed pilot project research falls under the scope of the IRB approval.

All other things being equal, preference may be given to junior faculty applicants gathering additional data for an R01 re-submission that was scored.



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TIMELINE

LOI deadline: April 30, 2024

Results LOI review: Mid-May 2024

Deadline full application: Mid-June 2024

Award Announcement: August 2024

Award Start Date: September 2024

For questions about the COBRE-SPM Pilot Project Program, please contact the Pilot Project Program Director, Dr. Vivian Fonseca.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Best Regards,

Vivian Fonseca, MD
Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology
Assistant Dean for Clinical Research
Tullis Tulane Alumni Chair in Diabetes
Chief, Section of Endocrinology
COBRE Pilot Program Director
vfonseca@tulane.edu