Vanderbilt-Meharry CFAR
Developmental Core Award Program

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT AND APPLICATIONS

Letter of Intent/Application Process: Please submit a brief letter of intent (LOI) via email by 5:00 p.m. February 17, 2006. The letter should include a brief description of your anticipated project, how you fit eligibility criteria (see below), the award program for which you are applying (see below), and your contact information (include email address). Also include names of project co-investigator(s), collaborator(s), and/or mentor(s), as appropriate. The purpose of this brief letter is to allow CFAR to contact you with advice about preparing a competitive application. Therefore, expect to be contacted soon after submission of your letter of intent. Full applications will be due March 17, 2006 and require prior LOI submission.

Eligibility Criteria: An applicant may be junior faculty, a post-doctoral fellow about to become junior faculty (with letter from Dept. chair or Div. chief stating that), or an established investigator at Vanderbilt or Meharry Medical College. Proposals from “new investigators” will be given special consideration. “New investigators” are defined as per the NIH (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/#definition): Applicants who have not previously served as the principal investigators (PI) on any Public Health Service-supported research project other than a small grant (R03), an exploratory/developmental grant (R21), or certain research career awards directed to those beginning their research career (K01, K08, and K12). Current or past recipients of Independent Scientist and other non-mentored career awards (K02, K04) are not considered new investigators.

Applications will be evaluated on scientific merit and on the likelihood that a project, if further developed, will be competitive for individual research project funding from NIH (R01). As part of the application, we request information about what federally funded award the applicant plans to pursue using data and results from a CFAR Developmental Core Award.

Award Programs

Interdisciplinary HIV/AIDS Research Projects
Up to $50,000/year will be awarded for up to 2 years for projects involving two or more investigators from different disciplines. Collaboration is encouraged between investigators in any two disciplines, but particularly between faculty in clinical and basic science departments. This includes both established AIDS investigators and investigators new to the HIV field. Teams that include faculty at Meharry and Vanderbilt are encouraged. The goal is to enable subsequent submission of new grant applications to NIH.

New HIV/AIDS Research Pilot Projects
Up to $25,000/year will be awarded for up to 2 years for collection of pilot/feasibility data. These grants are intended to enable investigators to perform key preliminary studies prior to submitting new grant applications to NIH. A proposal must be for a new project distinct from any currently funded project.

About CFAR Funding: Funding is available through the CFAR Developmental Core to enhance research opportunities for junior and senior faculty members at Vanderbilt or Meharry. The goal of this program is to develop the next generation of AIDS researchers with the potential to expand extramural funding. HIV/AIDS research activities include, but are not limited to: basic science, clinical, epidemiological, neurobehavioral, and health services research. Please go to www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/cfar and click on “funding opportunities” for more information. CFAR Cores (other than the Developmental Core) may also support research applications by mentoring, advice in application preparation, or through providing Core services. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact any Vanderbilt-Meharry CFAR Core Director to discuss your application as early as possible. Core services are described at: http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/cfar.

Deadline for Letters of Intent: 5:00 p.m. February 17, 2006
Please submit your Letters of Intent via email attachment to laurie.lebo@vanderbilt.edu

Mid-Year Funding Schedule 2006

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