



Nebraska Center for Integrated Studies of Biomolecular Communication (NCIBC)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: New Pilot Project Applications

Overview:

NCIBC (<http://ncibc.unl.edu/>) seeks to fund several new Seed Projects in the center's focus areas as broadly defined below. Seed Projects are short term awards with a limited possibility of renewal.

Diseases result when the internal stability and normal communications between tissues and cellular pathways are disrupted by genetic defects, environmental disturbances, or pathogens. NCIBC is funded by a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence grant (P20GM113126) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to build institutional capacity and infrastructure for basic biomedical research. NCIBC is designed to be a natural mixing chamber to integrate the research activities of chemists, biochemists, engineers, and bioinformaticists to address critical knowledge gaps in our understanding of how cells communicate and to mechanistically define metabolic and regulatory pathways relevant to disease development and progression. NCIBC's **long-term goal** is to foster the development of collaborative research teams with broad disciplinary representation to interrogate complex disease pathways, especially by connecting researchers who are developing new molecular probes and analytical and informatics technologies with those unravelling molecular mechanisms of complex diseases.

Eligibility:

- Individuals must qualify as an "Early Stage New Investigator" [1] according to NIH guidelines, have a full-time tenure-leading appointment at UNL or UNMC, and not be supported by another CoBRE Center.
- The proposed research must fall into the areas of NCIBC focus as listed above with preference given to collaborative projects involving NCIBC members and to projects that will make use of the NCIBC Systems Biology Core and/or Data and Life Sciences Core facilities.
- NCIBC Seed Project Leaders must become participating members of the center.

Application Process:

- A Letter of Intent should include: (1) a cover page with a descriptive title of proposed research and contact information; (2) a one-page description of research plan. Plans for collaboration within NCIBC and use of the NCIBC research core facilities should be included in the body of the research plan; and (3) an NIH biosketch.

- The budget may include any expenses covered by a standard NIH grant totaling up to \$25,000 in direct costs. Renovation/alteration expenses and indirect (F&A) costs are not allowed.
- ***Letter of Intent should be submitted as a single PDF document to unlresearch@unl.edu by 5 p.m. CST on November 13, 2020.*** Include the text “NCIBC – Seed Project” in the subject line of the email.

Application Review:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Center Directors and members of Internal Mentoring and Advisory Committee (IMAC) using standard NIH review criteria. Top-ranked proposals may be forwarded to the NCIBC external advisory committee members for approval recommendations prior to submission to NIH for final approval. **Anticipated Award Notification:** December 1, 2020.

Questions concerning this RFA or the application process, contact:

- James Takacs, Professor of Chemistry: jtakacs1@unl.edu
- Jiantao Guo, Associate Professor of Chemistry: jguo4@unl.edu
- Mark Wilson, Professor of Biochemistry: mwilson13@unl.edu

[1] NIH **Definition of Early Stage New Investigator:** A Program Director/Principal Investigator who qualifies as a New Investigator is considered an Early Stage Investigator (ESI) if he/she is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency (or the equivalent) and has not previously competed successfully for an NIH- or NSF-supported research project other than early stage or small research grants or for training, infrastructure, and career awards. See also: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/investigator_policies_faqs.htm.