THIRD ANNUAL REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Phase I: Planning Grants for Collaborative and Multidisciplinary Pilot Research (CaMPR)

Phase I Application Due Date
Monday, September 14, 2009

Award Announcement
Monday, November 16, 2009

The overall goal of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, home of Columbia’s Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), is to enable CUMC to restructure and energize existing, outstanding resources in basic and clinical research so the barriers or ‘silos’ that often exist around individuals or small groups of investigators are replaced with a coordinated structure and collaborative environment wherein multi- and interdisciplinary clinical and translational (C/T) research may flourish. Central to achieving this goal is providing incentives for both young C/T investigators as they obtain pilot data prior to submitting funding applications, and more senior investigators who may not otherwise take that extra step and engage in multi- and interdisciplinary research.

The CaMPR is one of two pilot award programs sponsored by the Irving Institute’s Pilot and Collaborative Studies Resource (PCSR). Its goals are to:

1. support multi- and interdisciplinary research;
2. train and mentor a new generation of multidisciplinary C/T investigators;
3. expand and optimize the utilization of outstanding new and existing resources on CUMC; and
4. enhance recruitment of outstanding C/T investigators to pre-clinical and clinical departments at CUMC.

With these goals in mind, the CaMPR pilot award provides a two-phase funding process to support the formation of newly-configured investigative teams aimed at addressing a significant health problem at the cellular, individual, or community level. In Phase I, four (4) planning grants of $25,000 each will be announced on November 16, 2009, to assist in the formation and planning activities of novel, cross-disciplinary research teams involving both senior and junior faculty from at least two of the four CUMC schools. (A second school from the Morningside campus may be an option.) In addition to the collaboration among schools, proposals with faculty from more than one department within at least one of the schools will be considered more competitive. These teams will then have four (4) months to prepare a pilot grant submission for competitive internal review (due early March 2010). In Phase II, the top two applications which best meet the CaMPR program goals will receive a one-year, $125,000 award to support pilot work with the clear goal of submitting an NIH proposal. Instructions for the Phase II application will be announced in January 2010.
Phase I. $25,000-Planning Grant Awards (applications due Monday, September 14, 2009)

The purpose of the Phase I award is to fund the planning of an innovative pilot study. Proposals to test hypotheses or collect preliminary data are not eligible. Appropriate planning activities include: defining the health problem of interest, assembling the multidisciplinary investigative team, and identifying novel approaches/disciplines to address knowledge gaps. These activities should bring together faculty with expertise from diverse disciplines who have not previously been involved as co-investigators or are embarking on new, unrelated collaborations. Applicants are encouraged to include outside consultants with unique experience or expertise in innovative approaches not currently available at CUMC.

In order to track the evolution of these multidisciplinary collaborations, planning activities must be documented as part of a progress report within the Phase II application. Because we are particularly interested in the processes utilized to produce multidisciplinary proposals, the second application will be judged in part by the approaches each team develops to overcome challenges and barriers in creating their breakthrough, final proposal. Other criteria for selection will include creativity, importance of the topic under study, meaningful involvement of the junior investigators, and the likelihood that the pilot project will progress to an NIH project.

Applications for a Phase I planning grant may have a single or multiple principal investigator(s). A brief proposal of no more than seven (7) total pages is due by the close of business Monday, September 14, 2009, with the expectation that the selected collaborative planning teams be announced by November 16, 2009. In addition to the application, an NIH-style biosketch for each investigator must be included, along with a simple budget. (Please note: These are unrestricted funds and do not include indirect costs. Your proposed budget may include salary, fringe, supplies, travel, and other general expenses (OTPS). Please contact Ms. Jo-Ann Espaillat (je14@columbia.edu) with budgetary questions.)

Begin your application with a cover page that includes the names, academic titles, departments and schools of each cross-disciplinary research team member, and the title of the research project. Use the following headings to structure your proposal and be sure to limit the total number of pages to seven (7):

- Aims (1 page)
- Public Health Significance of the Proposed Study (1 page)
- Overview of Multidisciplinary Approach – Brief rationale (3 pages)
- Phase I Planning Activities and Timeline (1 page)
- Long-term Aims, including plans for future funding (1 page)

The application must be merged into one document and emailed no later than 5:00p, Monday, September 14, 2009, to Ms. Michelle McClave (mm3098@columbia.edu), the Irving Institute’s Communications Coordinator.

NOTE: Qualified applicants should hold a full-time faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor or above.

For more information about all the CTSA Resources, please visit our web site at: irvinginstitute.columbia.edu