

## **Request for Oklahoma COBRE in Structural Biology Seed Grant Proposals**

The Oklahoma Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Structural Biology (OCSB) invites proposals for seed grants to be funded through our NIH/NIGMS COBRE award. The project Principal Investigator must be a research or tenured/tenure-track faculty member in the State of Oklahoma. Current investigators supported by the OCSB are not eligible. These seed grants are intended to provide short-term funding, primarily to acquire preliminary data or generate publications to strengthen applications for full research project grants to NIH, NSF or other major funding mechanisms. Projects must be of high significance and potential impact, commensurate with NIH and NSF funding criteria and priorities, and have significant potential for near-term publication in a peer-reviewed research journal.

Seed grant projects should embody the scientific theme of the OCSB (<http://structuralbiology.ou.edu>). The Center seeks to promote and support research to understand the structures of important biomolecules that may be suitable as drug targets to treat human diseases. Studies that explore the structure and function of macromolecules and/or macromolecular complexes as they relate to catalysis, regulation and assembly at all levels of biological organization are of interest, as are theoretical, computational modeling and other quantitative approaches. An expansive view will be taken to evaluate the relevance of projects to the OCSB theme. Questions regarding the suitability of projects for Seed Grant support should be directed to Dr. Ann West ([awest@ou.edu](mailto:awest@ou.edu)). Projects that involve Core research facilities supported by the OCSB (macromolecular X-ray diffraction, crystallization, protein production) are particularly welcomed.

The OCSB anticipates funding at least 5 applications at a maximum level of \$20,000 for one 9-month funding period.

### **Important Dates**

*Application deadline:* 5 pm April 5, 2013

*Earliest Funding Start date:* July 1, 2013 (successful applicants will be notified immediately after a funding decision is made)

*Funding Termination date:* funds MUST be expended by March 31, 2014 (no-cost extensions will not be granted)

### **Submission Information**

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF formatted document to Dr. Ann West ([awest@ou.edu](mailto:awest@ou.edu)). Projects may be directed by a single investigator or by a collaborative team; the first named PI will be considered to be the spokesperson for the project and will assume responsibility for funds provided by the Seed Grant.

### **Review**

External reviews will be solicited from at least two outside reviewers. An Internal Advisory Committee will select proposals for funding.

## Application Content and Format

The application does not require a form. However applications should be written using Arial, 11 point or similar type font, with page margins no less than 1.0 inch on all borders. The application should include a Research Description together with Supporting Materials.

Research Description should comprise **no more than five pages** (not including the face page), be comprehensible to a reviewer who is not necessarily a specialist in the project discipline, and should include the following sections:

*Face page:* The title of the project, project PIs, their departmental affiliations, and contact information should be listed. If there is more than one PI, the first listed will be considered to be the corresponding PI for the project.

*Abstract:* (~200 words) Provide a summary of the problem the proposal addresses, its intellectual and/or biomedical significance and the specific aim(s) of the proposal. The abstract may be used by the OCSB for reporting purposes and published on the OCSB website.

*Specific Aim(s):* (~100 words) No more than two specific aims are recommended and should be stated clearly and concisely.

*Background and Significance:* (1 page) The question(s) to be addressed or the hypothesis to be tested in the specific aim(s) should be clearly and concisely stated. The applicant should explain how the data and results to be generated with Seed Grant funding will be used to support a future research project grant application.

*Experimental approach:* (1-3 pages). This section should show how the experimental approach specifically addresses the question or hypothesis but should not contain detailed experimental protocols. Expected results, as well as potential pitfalls and alternative experimental approaches (which may or may not be within the scope of Pilot Project support) should be described. Potential use of core facilities should be clearly stated (questions regarding suitability of core facilities to the proposed project should be discussed with core directors). Experimental support from collaborators who are not PIs should be documented with a letter of collaboration (see "Supporting Materials).

### Supporting Materials:

*Literature Citations:* No more than a single page; no particular format is required, but should include the title of the article or book, the name of at least the first author and sufficient information to retrieve the article or book from PubMed or a library reference database, respectively.

*Budget:* Funds may be used to provide salary and benefits for PI(s), postdoctoral researchers, technicians, graduate and undergraduate students, supplies and small equipment (<\$5000), travel for purposes of obtaining experimental data and contracted services (e.g., DNA sequencing, user fees for research cores). Costs should be itemized and justified. PIs should work with their campus research administration office in preparing a budget for their proposal. All submissions in response to this solicitation

must be reviewed and approved by the responsible official on your campus (*i.e.* routed through your Research Services or Sponsored Programs office).

*Biosketch(s) of PI(s)*: NIH – format biosketch (download from <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>) preferred, but an NSF formatted biosketch is acceptable.

*Current Support*: List all current sources of institutional or extramural funding. Indicate source of funding, grant number (if applicable), project title (if applicable), total project period, role in project (*e.g.*, PI, co-PI, collaborator, consultant, etc.), funding available to applicant in direct costs.

*Proposed funding applications*: List the grant applications that the PI proposes to submit based on results expected from Pilot Project funding. Indicate the target submission dates for applications, and the funding agency and funding agency division (examples: NSF, Molecular and Cellular Biosciences division, or NIH, National Institute of General Medical Sciences).

*Letters of Collaboration, if applicable*: Letters need only indicate that the collaborator plans to participate in the project as indicated in the Research Description.

*Institutional licenses and approvals, if applicable*: Provide Institutional Biosafety Committee Approval number if the project will utilize (a) recombinant DNA, (b) infectious agents or toxins or (c) human or non-human primate tissue or fluids, cell lines transformed with human viruses, or human cell lines. If the project utilizes radioactive materials, hazardous chemicals, and/or generates radioactive or hazardous waste, written approval from the relevant institute's Environmental Health and Safety Officer must be obtained. A statement that such approval has been obtained by the PI should be provided, if applicable. If the project will utilize live vertebrates or tissues, body fluids or feces from vertebrate animals, the appropriate protocols that involve animals or tissues must be approved by the relevant institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before commencement of research activities. If applicable, provide IACUC protocol approval number prior to start of project.

### **Reporting requirements**

Awardees will be asked to provide a final progress report (due 45 days after project end date) and to acknowledge receipt of this grant support in any publications or presentations. Questions can be directed to Ann West (405-325-1529; [awest@ou.edu](mailto:awest@ou.edu)).