

Research Project Call for Applications

Letters of Intent due July 15, 2019

Those selected to submit full applications will be notified by July 26, 2019.

Selected full applications due September 3, 2019

Anticipated project start date: January 2, 2020

NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Center for Molecular Analysis of Disease Pathways

(<http://cmadp.cobre.ku.edu>)

Summary: The COBRE Center for Molecular Analysis of Disease Pathways (CMADP) at the University of Kansas provides participating investigators with research support, mentoring and access to Core Lab Services in a collegial, collaborative atmosphere. **We anticipate being able to support up to two (2) new Research Projects at up to \$140,000 direct costs per year for one year, renewable for a second year, starting January 2, 2020.** Applications must describe a research project that fits well with the scientific theme of our Center and that will make good use of one or more of the CMADP Core Labs (<http://cmadp.cobre.ku.edu/cores>). This competition is open to all full time, tenure-track, or tenured faculty at KU-L, KSU, WSU or KUMC whose research embraces the molecular analysis of disease pathways in the broadest sense.

1. Introduction

1.1. The COBRE program is an initiative of the NIH-NIGMS. COBRE Centers are intended to:

- Focus on a single research area (e.g., molecular analysis of disease pathways);
- Augment and strengthen biomedical faculty research capability;
- Provide flexible support to build research capacity;
- Enhance research infrastructure;
- Encourage collaborative research **and research grant applications**;
- Foster health-related research.

The official RFA under which our COBRE Center is funded may be found at this URL:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-241.html>

1.2. COBRE Research Project Leaders are full time, tenure-track, or tenured faculty who are developing a promising new line of research that incorporates a significant emphasis on molecular analysis of disease pathways, and that will take advantage of both the Center's Core Labs and the interactivity among Center participants. Research Project Leaders will receive project support of up to \$140,000 per year (direct costs) for one year, renewable for a second year.

Research areas eligible for funding. Because COBRE Centers are expected to have a **thematic** scientific focus, research projects must fit the COBRE theme of molecular analysis of disease pathways. Successful applications may incorporate one or more of the following topics in significant depth. More information on the overall goals of the Center are provided on the COBRE website:

- the development of new probes that can be used to study cellular and molecular functions in living model organisms or cells
- new imaging approaches for studying disease pathways
- micro- or nanotechnology-based methods for studying disease pathways
- new sensing technologies
- development of innovative platforms and devices on which to analyze biological specimens for such things as microscopy and chemical analytics
- the use of next-generation sequencing (e.g. genome sequencing, RNA seq, ChIP seq) to analyze biological pathways relevant to disease in the broadest sense
- investigations involving model organisms for studying disease

1.3. Criteria for evaluation of COBRE applications. The basic criteria for NIH grant review may be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm>.

- Strength of the science and the quality and clarity of its presentation;
- Likelihood of the project becoming competitive for independent R01 funding;
- Likelihood of getting a publishable result within the one-year time frame;
- Relevance to the COBRE theme of molecular analysis of disease pathways (see above and CMADP website);
- A clear, detailed plan for utilization of one or more COBRE Core Laboratories;
- Background, experience and career status of the applicant;
- A track record of past research, research grant applications and research funding.

COBRE Projects must have a single Principal Investigator who will be responsible for the scientific direction and management of the project. Applications may involve collaborators, but only when they bring complementary investigator strengths and approaches to the project. All collaborators receiving COBRE funds **must** be from Kansas institutions. A possible exception is a collaborator who provides specialized research services to PIs/clients on an established fee-for-service basis.

Applicant eligibility (ref. current Phase I COBRE RFA PAR-16-415)

The intent of the COBRE is to support and develop promising investigators whose early career support consists of awards geared toward initiating their intended area of research. For the purpose of eligibility, a research project leader must be a junior investigator, defined either as:

- (1) An individual who does not have or has not previously had an external, peer-reviewed Research Project Grant (RPG) or Program Project Grant (PPG) from either a Federal or non-Federal source that names that investigator as the PD/PI.
 - a. Grants that name an individual as a co-investigator, collaborator, consultant, or to a position other than PD/PI or PD/PI on research grants that allow multiple PD(s)/PIs, do not disqualify that investigator.
 - b. Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) grants, exploratory/pilot project grants (such as NIH R03 and R21 awards), mentored career development awards (such as NIH K01 and K08 awards), or other Federal or non-Federal funding whose purpose is to provide preliminary support in anticipation of a RPG or PPG also do not disqualify the investigator.

- c. Investigators who have managed to obtain significant support in the form of a RPG or PPG (e.g., NIH R01, K99/R00, or P01, NSF, or other Federal or non-Federal agency awards) are not eligible.
- (2) An established investigator of any faculty rank who is making a significant change to his/her career goals by initiating a new line of research that is distinctly and significantly different from his/her current investigative program.
- a. The current or previous history of independent peer-reviewed research support, which should be indicated in the Biographical Sketch, in a different investigative area than that proposed in this application does not disqualify the investigator from serving as a Project Lead.
 - b. However, investigators whose current research is already supported by a RPG or PPG *and who are not changing their current research program* are not eligible.
 - c. Investigators who propose to develop a new or alternate line of research, but *whose intention is to maintain support of an active RPG or PPG in a different area of research* are also not eligible.

Please note: K-INBRE investigators are not eligible to receive simultaneous research funding as COBRE project investigators. Similarly, COBRE investigators may not receive simultaneous research project support from an INBRE or other COBRE award.

1.4. General Terms and Conditions of COBRE CMADP Research Project Awards:

1. New PIs not previously funded by COBRE are encouraged to apply.
2. In general, priority will be given to projects that make significant use of COBRE Core Labs.
3. Research project investigators must make an initial minimum commitment of 6 person months annually (this may include summer salary).
4. Funds may be used for consumable supplies, services or small laboratory hardware but not for equipment (i.e. items costing > \$5000). Personnel costs are allowable but preference will be given to applications that name specific individuals who are assured to be present on-site, eligible to work and ready to begin no later than January 2, 2020. Travel costs may include essential research-related travel and participation in national/regional scientific meetings. Tuition costs are allowable as per standard policies.
5. Investigators who receive COBRE support are **required to participate as fully as possible** in the regular monthly research meetings of the Center, as well as seminars, workshops and other special activities organized or sponsored by the Center.
6. **An investigator who is supported by IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is not eligible to receive research support from COBRE. An investigator is not allowed to receive research support from multiple COBREs simultaneously.**
7. Term and budget adjustments. The COBRE Director reserves the right to make term and budget adjustments in accordance with the intent of the COBRE CMADP program and NIH policies concerning scientific overlap of projects. For example, if a COBRE Investigator receives his/her own NIH R01 grant or equivalent, the COBRE grant may be reduced to adjust for overlap, up to and including 100% reduction if the scientific overlap is extensive.
8. Unanticipated new requirements: by accepting COBRE funds, awardees agree to comply with any and all requirements not already mentioned that may be imposed on COBRE CMADP by NIH or other institutional authorities.

Prospective applicants with questions about eligibility, program details, or the “fit” of their project to the COBRE theme are encouraged to contact Dr. Susan Lunte (slunte@ku.edu).

2. The Application Process

Step 1 - Send Email Letter of Intent (These *required* letters help us in planning.)

Letters of intent should be sent as a PDF via email to Cady Bush, COBRE CMADP Program Manager (cbush@ku.edu). Your letter of intent **must**:

- Be **received** by Monday, July 15, 2019;
- Be no longer than one page, sent by email as a PDF attachment **along with the applicant's NIH biosketch**;
- Explain briefly how the applicant meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 1 above;
- Explain briefly the nature or focus of the research that will be proposed and, if not obvious, how it fits the scientific theme of COBRE CMADP, and
- Explain briefly how the project will utilize one or more of the COBRE CMADP Core Labs.

Based on your letter, you will be notified by July 26, 2019 if you should prepare and submit a full application.

Step 2 - Prepare and Submit a Complete Application.

Applications should be prepared in general accord with the NIH PHS 398 application guidelines, (1/2018 revision, available from <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>). In the [Instructions](#), note particularly Part I, Sections 2.6, 5.5.2, 5.5.3 and 5.5.5. Include:

- Form Page 1: Face Page,
- Form Page 2: Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Site(s), Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells (include Senior Key Personnel information),
- Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period (and a budget explanation/justification) up to \$140,000 direct costs,
- Biographical Sketch Format Page.
- Omit the Table of Contents page and the Resources page (unless you have something unique to mention),
- Research Plan,
- References,
- Instead of using PHS Other Support pages, use the alternate instructions "D" and "E" below. Appendices are not allowed.
- Checklist Form Page. *Please note that, per a special agreement with the KU Office of Research, the F&A rate applied should be no more than 51.5%.*

In addition, please observe the following COBRE-specific requirements:

- A. The research plan **may not exceed ten (10) pages** in length including figures and tables but excluding references (which must be complete citations in the NIH style). The Specific Aims section must fit entirely on one page, and is not included in the 10-page limit for the research plan. Include sections 5.5.5 through 5.5.12 as described in the [NIH PHS 398 grant application instructions](#) **only** if applicable to your application.
- B. Please use 11-point Arial font with **one (1)-inch** margins on all four sides. (Write concisely and limit the amount of general background to the essentials that reviewers will need to be aware of to appreciate the proposed research.)
- C. All figures **and their lettering must** be large enough to be clearly legible.
- D. Other Support. Provide a listing of all current research support from all sources. For each source listed, please provide the following information: Name of funding source, title of project, your role, project start/end dates, and amount of direct costs available (or available to you if a multi-PI grant or a subaward), and percent effort. If you are a junior faculty member, please include the following details of your startup package in this list: amount initially provided, current unspent balance, and expiration date or other restrictions if any.

- E. Provide a listing of all grant **applications** submitted during the past **two** calendar years (from January 2017 to present). For each application submitted, please provide the following information: Date of submission, name of granting agency, title of project, project start/end dates requested, and amount of direct costs requested.
- F. The last page of the application should be the NIH Checklist page.

Please obtain assistance from the appropriate Grant Services agency at your university to submit your proposal. Suggested contacts are listed below:

- **KSU** [Office of Research and Sponsored Projects](#)
- **KU** [Higuchi Biosciences Center Proposal Preparation Office](#)
- **KUMC** [Research Institute Sponsored Programs Administration](#)
- **WSU** [Office of Research Pre-Award Services](#)

3. COBRE Application Package and Checklist

Please type the applicant's name in the upper right hand corner of every page. Number pages consecutively starting with the face page of the NIH PHS 398 form as page 1.

- Please use 11 point Arial font and **one (1)-inch** margins on all four sides.
- Observe the strict ten (10)-page limit on the research plan (including figures and tables but excluding references and the one-page Specific Aims section).
- No appendices or additional email attachments should be submitted with the application.
- The last page of the application should be the NIH Checklist page.

If selected for funding, applicants will be required to furnish copies of all relevant compliance approvals (radioisotopes, recombinant DNA, vertebrate animals, etc.) to COBRE CMADP prior to release of award funds, but **do not** submit these items at this time.

4. Submission of Application Package

- Please submit applications via email on NIH PHS 398 forms (as a single PDF document) to cbush@ku.edu.
- Applications must be **received** no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

5. Review of Applications

COBRE Research Project applications will be reviewed administratively according to the NIH criteria and the COBRE-specific criteria mentioned above.