

Center for Aging Intramural Grant Program

Deadline: Monday, October 2, 2006

DESCRIPTION: The Center for Aging requests research proposals for projects that examine a fundamental aspect of the aging process or a major clinical, behavioral, social science or health policy problem, which jeopardizes the health, and well-being of a large segment of the elderly population. The Center is eager to encourage new basic, translational, clinical, social and behavioral, or public policy research that will be synergistic with ongoing research in aging at UAB. We are particularly interested in receiving applications to study the effects of aging on risks and/or treatments for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, altered metabolism, cancers, immune system dysfunction, and infections. Other areas of interest include, but are not limited to, mobility, sarcopenia, exercise, vision, genito-urinary disorders, nutrition and chronic disease management (e.g. heart failure, stroke, atherosclerosis, osteoporosis, age-related cancers, dementia, memory, and neurodegenerative disorders).

This intramural grants program is designed to target the broadest range of scientific disciplines. It is expected that research supported through this mechanism will lead to the submission of a competitive application to a major research funding agency (e.g., NIH) at the end of the project period. Projects utilizing an explanatory approach (rather than descriptive) will be most competitive. Also, projects in which age is simply an “add-on” variable will *not* be favorably considered. The Center is particularly interested in stimulating interdisciplinary research. Research involving human subjects must employ a study design with gender and/or minority representation (by age distribution, risk factors, incidence/ prevalence, etc.) appropriate to the scientific objectives of the research.

This will be a two-step process.

STEP ONE: SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSAL:

Eligibility: Principal investigators must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent doctoral level degree. They must have a primary faculty appointment or a hold full-time position as a post-doctoral trainee or be in a full-time research staff position at UAB. Post-doctoral trainees and research staff members who do not have a faculty appointment must have a sponsoring UAB faculty member and co-investigator who will write a letter of support indicating that the proposed research can and will be accomplished by the applicant and that the applicant has the potential for pursuing an independent, extramurally funded research career as a faculty member in the future. The letter of support should indicate the degree to which the proposed project represents the independent work of the candidate and how it represents a new aging-related research direction for the lab or research program of the sponsoring faculty member. Persons previously funded by the CFA Intramural Grants Program as a Principal Investigator are not eligible to serve as principal investigators, but may serve as sponsors for non-faculty applicants.

This program may be particularly useful to junior faculty in the early stages of their careers who have an interest in aging, or to senior faculty who are already established in their respective fields, but who now wish to pursue a new aging-related research agenda. Faculty at the rank of Associate Professor or above who apply as principal investigators are asked to include a statement specifically addressing how the proposed research satisfies the eligibility criteria that it represent a “new aging-related research agenda.”

To apply: Provide a letter (two-page maximum) summarizing aims, background, and planned research. Also attach your four-page NIH biographical sketch, but no other documents.

Due Date: Monday, October 2, 2006

Submission: Submit letters with NIH Biographical Sketches to Peter Bosworth by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2006. Applications can be submitted electronically to bosworth@uab.edu. However, in addition, a signed printed version of the application must be received in CH19, 201 by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2006.

Evaluation: A committee of the Center for Aging will evaluate the applications, and select the six most promising candidates to submit full proposals.

Finalists Selected: Tuesday, October 10, 2006

STEP TWO: SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSAL BY APPLICANTS SELECTED FROM STEP ONE:

Inquiries: Peter Bosworth, MBA.
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