



Nebraska Center for Molecular Target Discovery and Development
Pilot Projects Program
2019 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Nebraska Center for Molecular Target Discovery and Development (CMTDD) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for one-year pilot grants of up to \$75,000 each. The CMTDD is an NIH/NIGMS-supported Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) with a mission to establish and expand physical and intellectual resources within the University of Nebraska system that catalyze the ability of its faculty to define, validate, and develop potential therapies against molecular targets for clinically important diseases. The CMTDD seeks to fund innovative and thoughtful projects in its thematic focus area of molecular target discovery and development. These awards are intended to enable the recipient to collect preliminary data in support of applications for external research funding at the federal level. As a participant in the CMTDD, pilot investigators will benefit from the Center's scientific and career-development guidance. Pilot funding will also facilitate access to the research support services offered by the Center's scientific cores, including the High-Throughput Screening and Computational Chemistry Core, the Mass Spectrometry Core, and the Target Validation Core.

ELIGIBILITY

The CMTDD aims to facilitate career advancement of promising junior faculty in the area of targeted therapeutics. Eligible applicants for the CMTDD Pilot Project Program must meet the following criteria:

- Have junior investigator status and hold a tenure-leading faculty appointment at the University of Nebraska at the rank of assistant professor or equivalent (or will hold such an appointment at the time the award is made); and
- Have not yet received external, peer-reviewed Research Project Grant (RPG) or Program Project Grant (PPG) funding as a PD/PI. (*Grants for which an individual serves in a role other than PD/PI do not disqualify that investigator. 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 an RPG or PPG also do not disqualify the investigator.*)
- Postdoctoral fellows or other positions that do not carry independent faculty status are ineligible.

2019 RFA PROCESS AND TIMELINE

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| • Submit a structured Letter of Intent (LOI) using the template provided below | June 3, 2019 |
| • Invitations issued to those selected to submit full applications | June 14, 2019 |
| • Full applications due | July 15, 2019 |

Decisions regarding invitations to submit a full applications and final funding decisions will be made by peer review, in collaboration with CMTDD leadership and the CMTDD External Advisory Board. The CMTDD External Advisory Board will also review full applications. All recommendations for pilot funding by the CMTDD External Advisory Board require approval by the NIGMS office that oversees the COBRE award to the CMTDD. Information regarding application format and reporting requirements will be provided at the time invitations to submit full applications are issued.

Required format for Letter of Intent (LOI) to submit a pilot project application:

- Principal Investigator (PI) name, degree, department, institution, and academic title
- NIH biosketch for PI (five-page limit)
- Other support, including a demonstration of institutional and departmental financial commitment
- Title of proposed project
- A brief (one-page limit) summary of the proposed project including the following components:
 - Background and Significance
 - A brief description of any preliminary data (figures allowed, but not required)
 - Hypothesis
 - Specific Aims
 - Brief description of how the proposed research relates to the CMTDD mission
 - Cited literature should be appended and is not counted toward the one-page limit for the LOI

SUBMISSION DETAILS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

Submit all responses and inquiries regarding this RFA to Kelly Jordan (kjordan@unmc.edu).