Dartmouth Lung Biology Center 2015 Pilot Project Program RFA

The Lung Biology Center (LBC) requests applications for Pilot Project Program (P3) Awards that advance the understanding and treatment of lung disease. The goal of these awards is to fund high-impact basic, translational, and clinical research, to enhance mentoring and interdisciplinary collaborations, and to leverage extramural funding opportunities.


Mechanisms: The following mechanisms are available:
1. COBRE Mentored Pilot Awards. Eligibility: PIs must be Dartmouth junior faculty members (assistant or untenured associate professors with PhD and/or MD degrees). The project must identify at least one experienced Lung Biology COBRE faculty member as mentor.
2. COBRE Collaborative Pilot Awards. Eligibility: PIs must be Dartmouth faculty members (assistant, associate or full professor with PhD and/or MD degrees). The proposal must involve faculty from at least two distinct disciplines.

The target mechanism should be specified at the time of submission.

Note: Faculty may not apply for funding under more than one proposal.

Proposals should contain all of the following elements:
• An NIH face page (PHS 398 form), and a NIH abstract page (PHS 398 page 2).
• A Specific Aims page.
• 3 page Research Design section.
• References.
• A one-page overall research and funding strategy, including a description of planned and recently scored grant submissions. (If scored, but unfunded, summary statements must be submitted if available).
• A budget with detailed justification.
• NIH biosketch for the PI and for the senior faculty mentor(s), if included.
Submit as a single PDF by email to Dean Madden (dean.madden~at~dartmouth.edu).

Research Design: This section must be consistent with standard NIH formatting requirements and contain the following sections: A. Significance, B. Innovation, and C. Approach/Research Plan. References should be appended, but do not count towards the 3-page limit. The section should succinctly describe the objectives of the work, relevant preliminary data and conceptually supportive data from the literature, anticipated results, a brief experimental plan, and a statistical plan and power calculation, as appropriate. The relevance to lung biology and to the mission of the LBC should be clearly described.

Funding Strategy: A timeline for the proposed research and the target and submission deadlines for an extramural grant application should be included. Applications may also propose to strengthen resubmissions of NIH (R01, R21) or national foundation grants that have been reviewed, but not funded. In this case, scores and copies of the summary statement should be included in the full proposal, and the research plan should clearly describe how the proposed studies will address the reviewers’ concerns.

Budget: Funding will start on or about August 1, 2015. The budget should be appropriate for the scale of the work proposed. COBRE awards are capped at a maximum of $75,000 per year for up to two years, although projects with budgets exceeding $50,000 per year must provide compelling justification and correspondingly high impact.
Budgets should outline all expenditures and should include a detailed (non-modular) budget justification.

**Note:** No funding will be provided for faculty investigator salaries, service contracts, off-site expenses, or any indirect costs.

**Human Subjects and Animals:** Prior to release of funds, P³ projects involving the use of human subjects or vertebrate animals must obtain appropriate institutional approvals from the Dartmouth Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, respectively. Approvals need not be obtained prior to application, but the proposal should describe plans to address CPHS and/or IACUC requirements.

**Review:** Proposals will be reviewed internally for completeness and then by the COBRE External Advisory Committee, who will rank applications relative to the following criteria. Brief review comments will be provided to the applicants.

**Review criteria:**
- P³ projects should support our mission as a nationally recognized center of excellence in Lung Biology. The most competitive proposals will:
  - Address a basic, translational, and/or clinical research problem in lung biology or disease.
  - Present high-quality, high-impact science. Scientific excellence is a prerequisite for funding;
  - Show clear potential to generate new biomedical research funding (e.g., produce preliminary data supporting significance, innovation, or experimental design; publications). Funded faculty must clarify the relationship to existing projects.
  - Incorporate interdisciplinary, cross-programmatic, collaborative approaches. This can include collaborative science supporting multi-PI R01 applications, P01 or center-type applications;
  - Support other COBRE-LBC goals and objectives, including faculty development, center sustainability, and translational research;
  - Interact strongly with the Lung Biology Center, including usage of the three scientific cores (Host-Pathogen Interaction, Live-Cell Imaging, Translational Research – see the COBRE website for descriptions).
  - Demonstrate a strong track record of project leaders/PIs (NIH Investigator criterion);
  - Outline appropriate statistical analyses and power calculations, if required;
  - Describe a feasible budget and timeline;
  - Address all ethical issues, including plans to obtain necessary CPHS or IACUC approvals.

**Additional Requirements:** All P³ awards will require participants to attend the LBC weekly lab meeting/seminar series and to present their research annually. In addition, applicants will provide written interim progress reports in advance of EAC meetings and a final progress report within 60 days of the conclusion of the grant. In case funding is requested for two years, the second year award is contingent upon progress reported at the end of the first year, as assessed by the EAC Review Committee.