

Sealy Center for Vaccine Development RESEARCH GRANT for FY09

Instructions for Applicants:

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Competitive Research Grant program is to stimulate the development of new research initiatives involving disease prevention strategies through the support of projects that have a very high probability of attracting extramural biomedical research grants to UTMB. All Sealy Center for Vaccine Development faculty members are eligible to apply.

While there are no restrictions upon the goals of the projects, which may be related to ongoing work in the principal investigator's laboratory, these awards are not intended to supplement or replace currently funded research projects. The investigator's percentage of research effort and total laboratory funding will be taken into account in the review. **It is incumbent upon the principal investigator to address the relationship between the proposed research and ongoing projects, and to convince the reviewers that successful completion of the proposed studies will have a reasonable likelihood of attracting new extramural grant support. Preference may be given to interdepartmental/collaborative projects.** These issues **must** be addressed in the proposal.

Reviewers will be asked to address the strengths and weakness of the proposal, as well as the likelihood that successful completion of the proposed experiments will lead to **new** extramural grant support. Reviewers will specifically be asked to comment in the following categories:

Significance: Does the study address an important vaccine related problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive the field of vaccinology?

Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

Investigator: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?

Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

Grants may be awarded for up to \$50,000 per year. While a project can be supported for a total of two years, second year funding will be contingent upon submission of an acceptable progress report that contains the Specific Aims, Significance, Background, and Preliminary Data sections of a new grant proposal. If extramural funding for the project in excess of the amount of the award is obtained during the period of endowment support, the unexpended funds will be returned to the SCVD for reallocation. An investigator may hold only one Competitive Research Grant at a time. A recipient of a Competitive Research Grant may reapply only upon termination of his/her existing Competitive Research Grant. Grantees and mentors agree by acceptance of funding to acknowledge SCVD financial support in presentations or publications that result from the funded work.

GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Grant Preparation:

Applicants should complete the following forms in the order listed (copies of all PHS 398 forms are available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>):

- **PHS 398 Form Page 1 – Face Page**
- **PHS 398 Form Page 2 – Abstract and Performance Site(s)**
- **PHS 398 Form Page 3 – Table of Contents**
- **PHS 398 Form Page 4 – Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period**
- **PHS 398 Form Page 5 – Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period**
- **PHS 398 Continuation pages containing the following information:**

- **A description of how SCVD support will lead to new extramural grant support:** Describe how the proposed research will lead to **new** extramural grant support. Address the relationship of the proposed research to ongoing work in your laboratory. In particular, provide a justification for funding (i.e., explain in what way funding will greatly facilitate your ability to pursue this project). **This section should not exceed one page.**
- **The proposed research plan:** Organize the research plan to answer these questions. (a) What do you intend to do? (Specific Aims) (b) Why is the work important? (Significance); what has already been done? (Background) (c) How are you going to do the work/interpret the results? (Experimental Approach and Methods). Please include a statement of the relevance of the proposed project to the goals of the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development. **This section should not exceed seven pages (including figures).**
- **A list of cited literature:** This section is not considered in page limitations.
- **PHS 398 Biographical Sketch:** A current 4 page NIH-style biographical sketch (including other support information) should be included for the principal investigator and all co-investigators.
- **OSP proposal routing form:** An Office of Sponsored Programs Proposal Routing form must accompany all intramural research grant applications (copies of this form are available at the OSP web page: <http://research.utmb.edu/osp/forms.shtm>)
- **A list of publications by the Principal Investigator where either the author's by-line, and/or acknowledgment of financial support, includes the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development. Please explain if there are no publications.** Copies of up to three such publications should be included as appendices with the application.

Grant Submission:

Please submit the original grant application, four copies, and an electronic version as a **single PDF file on CD** to:

SCVD Competitive Research Grant Committee
3.230 Mary Moody Northen Pavilion
Route 0436

Direct inquiries about the preparation of your application to Andrew McNees, PhD at extension 66506 or via email (amcnees@utmb.edu).

Applications are due by **August 24th, 2009 9am**. While investigators may submit more than one application for consideration in a single round of competition, no more than one grant will be awarded to an investigator in a given round.

Awards will be made in accordance to the UTMB fiscal calendar year.