The University of Michigan Health System – Peking University Health Science Center
Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Summary
The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and the Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC) Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research (http://www.puuma.org/) is accepting joint proposals from investigators working collaboratively at both institutions for pilot funding of projects that will demonstrate an effective team approach to discovery and new findings on diseases relative to both countries, and which can be leveraged for extramural funding opportunities.

Awards
1. Full Awards: up to $400,000/year* for two years (2-3 new awards anticipated)
2. Discovery Awards: up to $100,000/year* for two years (4-6 new awards anticipated)

* Funding for all awards originate equally from UMHS and PUHSC with the intent that the respective amounts will be spent within the originating country

Expected Start Date: July 1, 2013

Submission Deadline
1. A letter of intent (LOI) is strongly recommended, though not required. Applicants are encouraged to submit an LOI as early as possible in the planning stage so that feedback can be used to shape the final proposal. Joint Institute leadership will provide feedback on the perceived synergy of the research team, the feasibility of the proposed project, and the relevance to the objective of the collaboration, as well as any other issues to keep in mind when constructing a proposal. Reviews will be completed on a rolling basis.
2. Submission guidelines for the LOI are included in Section E below. LOI should be submitted prior to February 15, 2013.
3. Submission guidelines for Full and Discovery Awards are included in Section E below. All proposals are due by March 30, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. local time

Submission Contacts
LOI’s and applications should be submitted as a single PDF file, including a request for notice of receipt to: yanhuan@umich.edu and sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn
A. Purpose

Both UMHS and PUHSC have made significant commitments to supporting scientists to translate scientific discoveries into real health gains more quickly and efficiently, and to promote the development of novel solutions that will ultimately improve health outcomes in the U.S., in China, and around the world. In the initial phase of the JI, three programs – pulmonary, cardiovascular, and liver – were identified because of their overall importance to global health, as well as the opportunity for effective collaboration and the potential for translational impact. While these programs remain major research foci areas for the Joint Institute (JI), the Executive Board is extending the opportunity to become a part of the JI to scientists in other disciplines who seek to establish robust collaborations between the institutions that will lead to transformative science and that attracts extramural funding. New areas of interest include, but are not limited to: diabetes mellitus, renal disease, and cerebrovascular disease.

B. Awards and Funding Allocations

The funding allocation for each project will be informed by the estimated budgets that are reviewed within the context of the submitted outlines and suggested modifications to be included in the full proposal. Both the Full and Discovery Awards are two-year awards. Grants may be renewed or extended beyond this time period, however, based on year-one and year-two progress reports and pending funding availability.

Faculty salary will be considered only for faculty who are integrally involved in the research aspects of the proposal. Salaries for other non-faculty personnel may be included.

The purpose of the Discovery Awards is to promote collaborations that have yet to be fully established.

C. Priorities and Requirements

Proposals must include Co-Principal Investigators from both UMHS and PUHSC. The proposers should clearly indicate: 1) how the proposed study will lead to the desired impacts and 2) how the successful conduct of the seed project will enhance the prospect for securing third party funding. Moreover, preferences will be given to proposals that are able to identify specific external research programs for future funding through Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

Cost-sharing derived from sources outside the JI demonstrates the interest of third parties in the field and is strongly recommended, but not required, for topic areas outside of cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, and diseases of the liver/digestive tract. The source, amount, and nature of such cost-sharing must be identified in writing and supported with a letter of commitment as part of the application.

Projects should have milestones and/or deliverables after year-one and year-two for progress and quality reviews, and must provide a continuing research plan for the years 3-5.
D. PI Eligibility

Full-time research faculty and tenured and tenure-track instructional faculty are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators.

E. Submission Guidelines

I. Letters of Intent (LOI) are strongly recommended, though not required, and should not exceed three pages. Inclusion of the following elements will enable JI Leadership to provide the best feedback:
   1. Project Title
   2. Principle investigator from UMMS
   3. Principle Investigator from PUHSC
   4. Goals
   5. Description of the Project
   6. Deliverables and timelines for Year 1 and 2
   7. Strategic goal and plan for Year 3-5
   8. Estimate Budget (Break down year 1 and 2)

II. Proposal for Full Awards

1. Cover Sheet shall include:
   - Title of the project
   - Name, signatures of Principal Investigators (PIs) and Department Chairs, and contact information of PIs at UMHS and PUHSC
   - Requested funding and established cost-sharing for each participant and for total project broken out by project year

2. Project Description (maximum 10 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font):
   2.1. Executive summary
   2.2. Objectives (no more than 4)
   2.3. Background: Existing status quo/state-of-the-art and challenges
   2.4. Research Strategy and Methodology:
      o Experimental design/rationale
      o Description of major tasks and respective task leaders
      o Proposed timeline for major tasks and milestones
      o Future directions and research plans for the next three years
      o Opportunity for subsequent funding (beyond the scope of the seed project)

3. Plan for Protection of Human Subjects

4. NIH Biosketches of key personnel (maximum four pages per individual)

5. Plans (if any) for interchange of personnel between institutions (include: name of mentors and trainees, training time frame, training objectives/curriculums/activities, description of the trainees’ major role in the project)

6. Identification of project-relevant Background Intellectual Property, if applicable
7. Budget to include

**Line item budget:**
1) Personnel (for each):
   a. name/role on project
   b. percent effort
   c. base salary/benefits
2) Consultants (per diem only)
3) Supplies/materials
4) Participant fees/costs (i.e., expenses per participant including travel, tests, payment for time)
5) Travel

**Budget Justification:**
For each category above briefly describe and provide justification for each item

Costs must be broken out for both UMHS and PUHSC participants. Lodging and other living expenses are to be borne by the home institutions of the visiting researchers.

### III. Proposal for Discovery Awards

1. **Cover Sheet** shall include:
   - Title of the project
   - Name, signatures of Principal Investigators (PIs) and Department Chairs, and contact information of PIs at UMHS and PUHSC
   - Requested funding and established cost-sharing for each participant and for total project broken out by project year

2. **Project Description** (maximum 5 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font):
   2.1. Executive summary
   2.2. Objectives (no more than 4)
   2.3. Background: Existing status quo/state-of-the-art and challenges
   2.4. Research Strategy and Methodology:
      - Experimental design/rationale
      - Description of major tasks and respective task leaders
      - Proposed timeline for major tasks and milestones
      - Future directions and research plans for the next three years
      - Opportunity for subsequent funding (beyond the scope of the seed project)

3. **Plan for Protection of Human Subjects**

4. NIH Biosketches of key personnel (maximum four pages per individual)

5. Plans (if any) for interchange of personnel between institutions (include: name of mentors and trainees, training time frame, training objectives/curriculums/activities, description of the trainees’ major role in the project)
6. Identification of project-relevant Background Intellectual Property, if applicable.

7. Budget to include

   Line item budget:

6) Personnel (for each):
   a. name/role on project
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7) Consultants (per diem only)

8) Supplies/materials

9) Participant fees/costs (i.e., expenses per participant including travel, tests, payment for time)

10) Travel

Budget Justification:
For each category above briefly describe and provide justification for each item

   Cost must be broken out for both UMHS and PUHSC participants. Lodging and other living expenses are to be borne by the home institutions of the visiting researchers.

F. Evaluation of Project Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by two peer reviewers familiar with the content areas and funding environment in the U.S. and China respectively, and based on the following modified NIH criteria:

- Impact and significance of the work
- The potential leveraging of this work into extramural funding
- Qualifications of PIs/Mentors: appropriate to work proposed
- Appropriateness of research design and methodology
- Resources available to do the work

In addition, a major emphasis will be placed on the potential for meaningful collaboration that will be demonstrated by ongoing exchange, trust building, insights into the cultural differences in how research is executed, a willingness to work within the JI structure, and commitment to engaging in the collective work of the JI including an interest in the projects of others.

1) The JI Executive Committee (EC) will consolidate the review comments, review the proposals based on the additional criteria (below), and make recommendations to the JI Executive Board for approval.

   Evaluation criteria:
   - Synergy between UMHS and PUHSC
   - Relevance to the objective of the collaboration
   - Potential for external funding
   - Cost-effectiveness

2) The JI Executive Board will review the proposals and recommendations from the JI EC and make final decisions. Awards are expected to be announced in May 2013.
G. Project Review

Funded projects will be reviewed at year-one and year-two of the funding period. The reviews will include assessments of scientific progress, progress toward long-term goals, and progress toward obtaining external funds.

Please direct any questions to:

Joseph C. Kolars, M.D.
Co-Director, UM-PUHSC Joint Institute Executive Committee
Senior Associate Dean for Education and Global Initiatives
Professor of Medicine
University of Michigan Medical School jckolars@med.umich.edu

Weigang Fang, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Director, UM-PUHSC Joint Institute Executive Committee
Vice President of Peking University Health Science Center
Professor of Physiology wgfang@bjmu.edu.cn

Amy Huang, M.D.
Director for China Programs
University of Michigan Medical School yanhuang@umich.edu

Qiudan Sun, M.S.
Co-lead, Collaboration Core
Associate Dean, Department of Applied Linguistics,
Director, Office of International Cooperation,
Professor of English, Department of Applied Linguistics
Peking University Health Science Center sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn