**Applications for Mentored Pilot Research Projects**

The Center for Neurosensory Systems, a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) is soliciting applications for pilot grants concerning the molecular mechanisms regulating the development and maintenance of function of the auditory, visual, and central nervous systems. Applications can request up to $100,000 for one year, with the possibility of competitive renewal for a second year. Proposals must indicate how the pilot study results will be used to support R01 or equivalent applications.

COBRE programs have a primary focus in career development and include a structured mentoring program, so preference is given to junior faculty members, researchers who are adding a new research focus, or clinicians starting a research program. We will work with successful applicants to match them with an appropriate research and career mentor, and they are expected to meet regularly. Preference will also be given to projects which utilize any of our sponsored core facilities: Genomics, including DNA and RNA Sequencing (<http://www.unmc.edu/genetics/research/centers-cores/dna-sequencing/index.html> ), Mouse Genome Engineering (<http://www.unmc.edu/genetics/research/centers-cores/mgec/index.html>), Tissue Science Facility (<http://www.unmc.edu/pathology/research/facilities/tsf/index.html> ), Imaging (<http://www.creighton.edu/researchservices/corefacilities/confocal/> ), and Auditory Physiology (<https://www.boystownhospital.org/research/molecularstudies/Pages/DevelopmentalAuditoryPhysiology.aspx> ).

**Who may apply:**

Applicants must have full-time faculty appointments at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, or Boys Town National Research Hospital.

**Application Format:**

Applications should reflect the format of R21 applications (PHS 398) and contain the following:

Biosketch of the applicant

Detailed budget for the first year

Specific Aims (1 page)

Research Strategy (up to 6 pages) including Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Preliminary Data. Since these are pilot projects which may have little preliminary data, that section may be used to demonstrate relevant experience in related research.

**Timetable:**

Applications should be e-mailed in pdf format to Shelley Smith by November 13, 2015. They will be reviewed by a local steering committee and by an external advisory committee, with final approval by NIGMS after review of relevant IACUC or IRB approvals. The anticipated award date is in January, 2016.

For additional information please contact:

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