

Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases

Collaborative Research for Neuromuscular/ Musculoskeletal Disorders (FY 2018)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(Please Read Very Carefully and Take Note of Deadlines)

Announcement Date: January 19, 2018

Application Due Date: March 1, 2018 (5:00 PM CST)

Announcement of Awards: May 2018

The Executive Committee for the Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases (KCMD) is pleased to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Neuromuscular/Musculoskeletal Research Grants to be submitted to the KCMD for funding consideration. Funding for this grant program is provided by the member institutions. Background, Scope, Eligibility, Review Criteria, Application Procedures, the Review Process, and submission instructions are provided below.

BACKGROUND

The Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases was formed with the goal to build powerful research teams of basic to clinical investigators from our three institutions to discover new treatments and cures. The executive committee serves as the coordinating body for KCMD's research initiatives by functioning as a facilitator, matchmaker, and potential funder of collaborative research initiatives. KCMD supports four key stakeholder institutions (Kansas City University, University of Kansas Medical Center, University of Missouri - Kansas City, and University of Missouri – Columbia).

PURPOSE

This RFP serves to stimulate the development and submission of major multidisciplinary research proposals from investigators in the life sciences, including clinical research that will advance the goals of the consortia. KCMDI's approach for achieving this goal is to support research development grants capable of generating critical preliminary data needed to develop competitive proposals for submission to external agencies. Proposals are invited for multidisciplinary collaborative research development grants consistent with the scope of this specific RFP. Maximal award amount can be up to \$50,000 for one year, but lesser awards may be requested and awarded.

SCOPE

Applications are solicited from clinical, translational and basic scientists engaged in research at one of the four member institutions of the Kansas City Consortia on Musculoskeletal Diseases with expertise in neuromuscular/musculoskeletal disorders (e.g., ALS or osteoarthritis). Genetic, molecular, cellular and systems approaches aimed at elucidating the development and progression of such diseases are encouraged. Proposals must clearly identify how the research team intends to generate critical preliminary data needed for future collaborative proposal submissions to external agencies. Proposals must be from collaborative research teams spanning two or more organizations.

Musculoskeletal Disorders or MSDs are injuries and disorders that affect the human body's movement or musculoskeletal system (i.e. muscles, tendons, ligaments, nerves, discs, blood vessels, etc.)

Neuromuscular disease is a very broad term that encompasses many diseases and ailments that impair the functioning of the muscles, either directly, being pathologies of the voluntary muscle, or indirectly, being pathologies of nerves or neuromuscular junctions.

Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases

ELIGIBILITY

All full-time faculty researchers at KCMD key stakeholder institutions are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Proposals should include evidence of interinstitutional collaborative research. Special consideration is given to proposals that receive other institutional or organizational matching or contributed funds. **Only one proposal will be accepted per Principal Investigator (PI)** (whether as a single PI or as a named multiple PI) in this funding cycle, although a PI on one proposal can be listed as a collaborator on other submitted proposals.

Required Submission Items (In the following order)

The proposal should follow the NIH format and include the following PHS-398 (Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services) forms found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>:

1. **Face Page:** Contains project title and information regarding Principal investigator(s)/Program Director.
2. **Project Description, Performance Sites and Key Personnel:** This should relate to broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, performance sites, key personnel and other significant contributors. The project description must also address how the proposed work will lead to future extramural funding, how it addresses team science, and how it advances the science of translational research.
3. **Detailed Budget and Budget Justification:**
 - Budgets requests should not exceed \$50,000 in direct costs for this one-year study.
 - Equipment should not exceed 20% of the total budget
 - Salary and fringe benefits may be requested and must be in accord with set institutional guidelines.
 - Any cost share funds available to the project should be identified and supported by a letter from the funding source.
 - Travel is not permitted unless clearly needed to collect data, and specifically documented
 - No Indirect cost can be charged.

Separate budget justification page must follow the budget page and detail the rationale for all budget requests. Supply items should be summarized within major categories (e.g. image analysis, tissue culture, etc.). The budget and budget justification should only represent funds requested for studies proposed in response to this RFP.

The budget and budget justification should clearly delineate which costs will be incurred at each institution. One option is to submit a combined budget along with sub-budgets for each institution.

4. **NIH Biographical Sketch:** For all investigators, use the current NIH format that includes an initial project-specific paragraph about each investigator's role. Also include information about past grant support and effort allocation on pending applications and current projects. The Principal Investigator's Biographical Sketch Format Pages must be first followed alphabetically (last name) by all other investigators.
5. The Resources Format Page must detail resources that are to be used at the collaborating

Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases

institutions toward completion of the project. Use additional pages as necessary.

6. **Research Plan:** To be typed in Microsoft WORD using Arial 11 font size and at least 0.5 inch margins. The research plan may not exceed five (5) pages (excluding references) and must include the following:
 - Specific Aims
 - Research Strategy
 - i. Significance
 - ii. Preliminary studies (if any)
 - iii. Research design and methods (Approach)
 - References (not included in the 5 page limit)
7. **Appendix:** Include measurement instruments and other ancillary items. The Appendix **may not** be used to provide additional data or information that should be part of the 5 page proposal.
8. **Letter(s) of Collaboration and support:** From all members of the collaborative scientific team explaining their roles in the proposed research and confirming their agreement to participate in the project. Letters should also be provided from any programs, centers or institutes that provide resources critical to the execution proposed studies.
9. **Letter(s) from the Respective Chair(s) or Institutional/Organizational Official** indicating support for time and effort allocation of the investigator(s) to do the research and any other contribution to the project. If applicable, documentation indicating any commitment of matching or contributed funds to support the research project. Departmental or other contributed funds are highly encouraged, but not required.
10. **Status of IRB or IACUC submission:** Please provide updated documentation on where the proposal is in the approval process. If approval has been granted, include confirming documentation. If approval is not complete, indicate whether or not it is currently in process and if so submit documentation and a copy of the IRB application. Please note that inclusion of study subjects must be monitored with regard to sex/gender, race, and ethnicity, as well as the inclusion (or exclusion) of children. NIH now requires all inclusion reporting for all pilot studies awarded funds from an NIH grant.

REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Proposals must document specific evidence of inter-institutional collaborative research.
2. Proposals must address an important and relevant question(s) related to the scope of this RFP.
3. Proposals should describe how the proposed grant support will facilitate the development and submission of a proposal(s) seeking external funding from government and/or private agencies. The long-term expectations regarding the institutions extended research programs and potential for expanded research in related areas of research should also be articulated.
4. Merit review criteria are essentially the same as those used by Federal granting agencies such as NIH and NSF. Criteria include scientific and technical significance, innovation, approach, and likelihood of success of achieving external funding.
5. Qualifications and research experience of the Co-Principal Investigators and collaborating investigators are important considerations.
6. Proposals must present a realistic assessment of the scope of work proposed for the one year period of funding.
7. Appropriateness of the proposed budget for each co- investigator.

REVIEW

Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases

Upon receipt, proposals will undergo an administrative review to assure compliance with submission requirements and that appropriate institutional signatures and assurances were obtained. Proposals will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit and assigned NIH-type priority scores. Upon receipt of scientific review scores, the proposals will be ranked by KCMD's Executive Committee that subsequently will decide on priority for funding. Final award decisions will be made based on priority scores, recommendations, and availability of funds.

Key Deadline Dates and Details

Announcement Date: January 16, 2018

Submission of Application: by March 1, 2018 (5:00 PM CST). **NO EXTENSIONS TO THIS DEADLINE**

- Please go to the following site to access REDCap: <https://redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=4XJ38FCRWK>. This will allow you to submit your application online. Fill out all of the required data blocks and then upload your application in a single PDF format.

Announcement of Awards: May 2018

Funding Start Date: May 2018

For questions or additional information, please contact the following individuals:

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