

## Richardson, Dave

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**From:** Schiffer, Peter E.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:11 PM  
**To:** Larson, Daniel; Foley, Karin; Crouter, Nan; Sharkey, Neil; Robert Steele; swelch@psu.edu; McPheron, Bruce; Lombra, Raymond; Wormly, David; Anthony Atchley; Yen, John; Foley, Henry; Easterling, William III; Scaroni, Alan  
**Cc:** Hudson, Peter; Snyder, Alan; Susan McHale; Eva J. Pell; Douglas R. Cavener; Vivek Kapur; Richardson, Dave; Schiffer, Peter E.; Moore, Lesley; Knoedler, Alicia  
**Subject:** New NIH stimulus program: Please respond by April 13

Dear All,

There is a new NIH stimulus program that is potentially very exciting. This program apparently provides up to \$1M per successful proposal for startup funds and salary for new faculty hires around "Research Core Centers". The program description is given at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-005.html> and I also include a summary below.

The complication is that this program is being handled separately with different guidelines for each of the institutes within NIH. To make it even more interesting, it is a limited submission, with a separate limit for each of the institutes. See [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/RFA-OD-09-005\\_contacts.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/RFA-OD-09-005_contacts.htm) for the details concerning each institute.

Letters of Intent are due to NIH on April 29 and full proposals are due on May 29. Because of the short timeline and the special nature of this call, we will not be doing the usual downselect for limited submissions. **Instead, I ask that the College Dean's Offices to e-mail Eva and me if you would like to submit one or more proposals, indicating the topic and the institute within NIH to which you would be submitting in each case. Please let us know before April 13 if you are interested.** If there are any conflicts with the limits on submissions, we can then address them with time to spare for writing some winning proposals.

Best regards,

Peter

Summary of the solicitation:

This initiative, which is supported by funds provided to the NIH under the Recovery Act, is designed to provide the necessary resources for U.S. academic institutions/organizations to enhance their biomedical research efforts through the development of Biomedical Research Core Centers. For this announcement, Biomedical Core Centers are defined as a community of multidisciplinary researchers focusing on areas of biomedical research relevant to NIH, such as centers, departments, programs, and/or trans-departmental collaborations or consortia. These Core Centers are designed to provide scientific and programmatic support for promising research faculty and their areas of research. The NIH invites applications that include plans to recruit and hire investigators to conduct biomedical research in all scientific disciplines, including the field of bioethics.

These Core Center Grants are institutional awards that provide funding to hire, provide appropriate start-up packages, and develop pilot research projects for newly-independent investigators, with the goal of augmenting and expanding the institution's community of multidisciplinary researchers focusing on areas of biomedical research relevant to NIH. Core Center Grants are institutional awards that provide support for shared resources for categorical research by faculty from different disciplines who provide a multidisciplinary approach to a joint research effort, or from the same discipline who focus on a common research problem. For this announcement, awards will be directed towards hiring investigators and providing appropriate start-up research resources (e.g., research salary, equipment, and supplies for initiating their research) that will help strengthen or expand the scientific capacity of the Biomedical Research Core Center.

Any newly- recruited research faculty receiving support under this award:

- should be appointed to an independent tenure-track (or equivalent) research position at the Assistant Professor level;
- should be new to the faculty, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow or junior investigator hired from outside the institution, or an individual who is transitioning to independent faculty status within the current institution;
- is expected to not have previously had a tenure-track research appointment at a former, or current, institution;
- should have a track record of research training and career development in a research area relevant to the primary mission of both the proposed Core Center and the awarding NIH IC;
- should be given an appointment within the Core Center which provides at least 75% protected research time. (NIH funds may be used to support salary and fringe benefits only for the proportion of the new faculty member's time that is devoted to research activities; clinical and teaching duties may not be supported by NIH funds);
- should receive joint appointment(s) with other academic unit(s) at the applicant institution, allowing new faculty to access University-wide research resources and core facilities, and to serve as mentors for graduate programs affiliated with other academic unit(s);
- should receive a start-up package, which can include supplies, equipment and support for technical personnel whose role is critical to the pilot research projects that integrate with the scientific mission of the Core Center; and
- should complement and expand the breadth of existing institutional strengths, and should contribute to building a community of multidisciplinary researchers focusing on areas of biomedical research that are relevant to one of the participating NIH ICs.

Newly-recruited research faculty receiving support under this award will be expected to develop and/or participate in research projects within the Core Center. Participation should be appropriate for a newly-independent investigator and should foster the development of preliminary data which can be used to prepare applications for future independent research project grants to further both the investigator's research career and the scientific mission of the Core Center.

The institution will be expected to work with each newly-recruited research faculty member to develop a faculty career development plan consistent with the Core Center's emphasis on a multidisciplinary approach to biomedical research.

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