

**Cardiovascular COBRE Program
Pilot Project Program
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine**

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Release Date:

Application Receipt Date: May 15, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. HST

E-mail to Li Forsman (forsman@hawaii.edu), 692-1570

Anticipated Completion of Internal Review: July 10, 2015

IRB and/or IACUC Approvals Due: June 19, 2015

Anticipated Award Date: September 1, 2015

Purpose

The goal of the Cardiovascular COBRE Pilot Project Program is to provide funds for junior investigators to produce preliminary data required for a larger externally funded cardiovascular investigation. We will also provide bridge funding to investigators at any stage with a scored but unfunded submission who need modest additional support to submit a successful application to the NHLBI, AHA, or other external agency.

Funding Available

The Cardiovascular COBRE Program can support up to a maximum of \$150,000/year in pilot projects. The applicant may request \$50,000 in direct costs. The grant period will be September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. All funds in the first award cycle must be expended by June 30, 2016 and no approvals for carryover of funds or no cost extensions will be granted. Indirect costs are not allowed. Salary support for mentor is not allowed. Allowable budget items will include personnel, supplies, travel, fee-for-service work, equipment, small equipment (less than \$5,000), and publication costs.

Eligible Investigators

Open to any faculty in the State of Hawaii

Strong preference will be given to projects that are clearly cardiovascular in nature. Applications that have a less obvious connection to cardiovascular science should be approved by Dr. Ralph Shohet prior to submission. Faculty members of the Center for Cardiovascular Research are available to assist with development of projects. Collaborations involving translational research are encouraged and priority will be given to applications that use the Cardiovascular COBRE Core laboratories: Histopathology, Genomics, and Mouse Physiology. Use of any other Cores supported by IDeA or NIMHD programs is also encouraged.

Applicants must meet at least one of the criteria below.

- 1) New or early stage investigator who has submitted, or will soon submit, an application to NIH or other national funding agency.
- 2) Investigators at any stage of their careers with a scored application to NIH or other national funding agencies who need further modest support to respond to critique and resubmit the application.

If the applicant under either of the above criteria is a junior investigator, mentoring by an established investigator is encouraged and the mentor should be identified, with mentor biosketch included in the application.

Format of the Application

All applications must be in 11 point Arial font with half-inch margins. Figure legends may be 10 pt. The over-all length of the scientific portion of the proposal is limited to 5 pages (not including references or budget). Suggested page length for sections described below is meant as a guide only.

Budget: Please provide a detailed budget for the 10-month period. The application is expected to be for \$50,000 direct cost. It is possible to apply for a different amount with appropriate explanation and prior approval from Dr. Shoheit. Please use standard NIH budget categories, such as those on NIH budget form pages 4 and 5 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>).

Specific Aims (1/2 page)

List the goals, long-term objectives and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to cardiovascular disease. There must be a clear description of how the pilot project will lead to a grant submission with specific anticipated date of submission.

Background and Significance (1/2 page)

Briefly describe the background/research to date that has lead to the present application. Critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. Provide statements describing the significance and innovation of the project.

Preliminary Studies (1 page)

Provide an account of the Principal Investigator's preliminary studies pertinent to the proposal that will help to establish the experience and competence of the investigator to pursue the proposed project.

Experimental Approach and Research Design (3 pages)

Describe the experimental approach to the research questions and state succinctly the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. A timetable should indicate expected completion of milestones for the project. Describe potential problems and alternative approaches.

Literature Cited

List all references in numbered sequence within the text. Each reference must include the title, names of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Limit the references to relevant and current literature pertinent to the proposed research.

Biosketch and Other Support (page limits as per NIH instructions)

The NIH Biosketch of the principal investigator is required; a biosketch for other key personnel may be included. The current format for NIH Biosketch should be carefully followed, and other support, also in NIH format, should be included. Any potential overlap should be explained in detail. Pilot project funding will not provide support for a currently funded project.

Human Subjects (no page limits)

Follow the guidelines for documentation of certification for protection of human subjects in accordance with NIH guidelines (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf>; Part II). For Non-Exempt Human Subjects Research, be sure to include all required sections beginning on Page II-7 of the NIH document. For research involving human subjects, complete the Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/enrollment.doc>). Applications with an incomplete human

subjects section may be considered ineligible for review. Release of award funds will be contingent on receipt of IRB approval letter(s) and other regulatory documents.

Vertebrate Animals (no page limits)

Certification for protection for the care and treatment of laboratory animals should be obtained for all applicable projects in accordance with NIH guidelines. Release of award funds will be contingent on receipt of IACUC approval letter(s) and other regulatory documents.

Consultants (no page limits)

Include letters of support from investigators, mentors and faculty members confirming and describing their roles as consultants/mentors in the project.

Prior Critique (no page limits)

For those applying for bridge funding in anticipation of resubmission of a scored application, the prior critique should be included with the application.

Important Dates

The Proposal must be submitted electronically to Li Forsman at forsman@hawaii.edu, as a pdf file, no later than **May 15, 2015, 5:00pm Hawaii Time**. Any questions related to scientific appropriateness of the project or applicant eligibility should be sent by e-mail to Dr. Ralph Shohet (shohet@hawaii.edu) prior to May 15, 2015.

Scientific Review and Criteria for Selection

The review criteria will follow the new NIH guidelines based on overall scientific merit (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm#Criteria), including the appropriateness of the approach and the soundness of the experimental design, methods, and analyses; level of innovation; training and experience of the applicants. The scoring scale used by reviewers will be 1-9, with 1 as the top score and 9 as the lowest ranking. The reviewers will be asked to evaluate the proposals on the following criteria:

- **Mission:** Is the study relevant to the aims of the Cardiovascular COBRE?
- **Significance:** Does this study address an important question in cardiovascular science?
- **Approach:** Will the study design, approach, and methods achieve the proposal specific aims?
- **Innovation:** Are the aims, study design, and/or methods innovative?
- **Investigator:** Is the principal investigator's experience/training appropriate to the study proposal? Has the principal investigator been productive given their career level?
- **Environment:** Does the study environment enhance the probability of the project's success?

The Pilot Project Program Director, Dr. Shohet, will serve as the Scientific Review Officer to assign applications to 2 reviewers with scientific expertise. Reviewers will be selected from local and mainland experts. Members of the External Advisory Committee of the COBRE program and reviewers from other institutions will be consulted as needed.

After reviewing each proposal's score and summary statement as submitted by the reviewers in the first tier of review, the projects will be ranked based on merit and best fit with the COBRE grant overall research goals. Final review and approval will be made by the COBRE External Advisory Committee. All projects must comply with University of Hawaii and DHHS/NIH Federal policies, rules, and guidelines for research involving human subjects and animals.

Funding Decision

Awardees will be required to submit quarterly reports, as well as complete a progress report to be submitted with the COBRE annual progress report. Awardees will present their project to EAC members

when they visit the program and during one of the monthly Cardiovascular Center seminars. Applicable IRB and/or IACUC approvals must be obtained prior to the disbursement of funds.

Inquiries or Questions

Li Forsman
forsman@hawaii.edu
808-692-1570

Ralph Shohet, M.D.
shohet@hawaii.edu
808-692-1469