ANNOUNCEMENT, APPLICATIONS FOR:
V.A. 2011 - YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS (YIA)

Date: 11/2/2010

The VA Medical Research Service at the Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center requests applications for small research grants. Up to 3 awards of up to $15,000 to $25,000 each will be awarded from funding provided by the Indiana Institute for Medical Research, Inc.

Applicants should be a qualified VA investigator (M.D., D.O. or Ph.D.) with an academic rank not exceeding assistant professor and no current or prior history as a Principal Investigator of NIH or VA funding. Applications should be directed at the study of discrete projects intended to produce preliminary data in support of a future application for a VA Career Development Award or Merit Review grant. Thus, the applicant must remain qualified to apply for VA funding throughout the funding period.

Proposals will be scored by a panel of 2 or more reviewers with results expected by March 2011. Clinical relevance and significance to the Veteran population will be considered in assigning priorities. Awards will not be made for purposes of providing bridge funding. If the application is intended to provide support for generating additional preliminary data for a previously unfunded VA or NIH grant application, the score and percentile and reviewers’ comments should be provided.

Applications should consist of a face page with title and name of investigator and department; a curriculum vitae (NIH biosketch will suffice); and a narrative limited to 5 pages to include Specific Aims, Background, Preliminary Results, and Work Proposed. References are excluded from the page limit. Figures and tables can be submitted as appendices. A budget sheet, detailing proposed expenditures, is required. Supporting documents should include a one page summary that outlines the candidate’s career plans and how the proposed project will promote them and details what support is currently available (external funding, space, equipment, mentors). Letters from collaborators should be provided and letters from mentors are encouraged but letters from department chairpersons or division directors are not required.

The proposed work should begin within three months of the award notification date and be completed within 18 months of that date. It is expected that approvals will be obtained from the Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and the Bio-safety Committee as appropriate once the award has been announced. All funded projects require approval by the V.A. Research and Development Committee. Funding will not begin until approvals are complete. Annual progress reports should be submitted to marta.sears@va.gov.

Funds will be returned to the IIMR if the investigator ceases to be eligible for VA funding or if they have not been expended at the end of the award period. A six month extension to complete the project may be requested through the Office of Research and Development. Following completion of a funded study, the principal investigator will be responsible for submitting a report of the work accomplished.

A summary of Eligibility, Application Requirements & Award is attached.

Submission Deadline: 1/3/2011
Anticipated funding initiation: 3/15/2011
Applications: should be sent as a single PDF file to: Marta.Sears@va.gov

For more information contact:
Marta Sears, Exec Dir:  Indiana Institute for Medical Research 988-4202 marta.sears@va.gov
Mary Harden, Administrative Officer for VA R&D 988-4727 mary.harden@va.gov
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Eligibility
- MD, DO or PhD VA employee with at least 5/8ths effort
- Academic rank not to exceed Assistant Professor
- Intend to apply for VA research funding as an independent investigator
- No major current or prior external funding as the primary investigator
  - Excludes awards of < $40,000 derived from local (within the state) sources

Application
- Due Jan 3rd
- Face Page with Title, Investigator, and Department Affiliation
- Body: 5 page limit, 11 point type
  - Specific aims
  - Background
  - Preliminary results
  - Work proposed
- 1 page limit
  - Overall career research plan
  - Career plans with the VA
  - Resources available (external funding, space, mentors, equipment)
- Budget: 1 page detailing how funds will be expended
- Assigned to at least 2 independent reviewers
- Scored on a 1-9 scale with funding level determined by available funds
- Review and decision by March

Award
- Total amount determined by the IIMR board
  - Individual awards determined after review
- Projects should start within 3 months of the award decision
- Expenditures to be completed within 18 months of the notice of the award
- Applications for extension
  - With no additional funding up to 6 additional months to complete the project may be granted by the Executive Director
  - With a request for prorated additional funding up to 6 months – considered with annual YIA reviews
- Funds returned to IIMR
  - Investigator ceases to be eligible for future VA funding
  - Funds remaining after 18 months (post award date) without approved extension
  - Funds remaining after 24 months (post award date) with approved extension