

ANNOUNCEMENT, APPLICATIONS FOR: V.A. 2013 - YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS (YIA)

Date: 12/3/12

The VA Medical Research Service at the Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center requests applications for small research grants. Up to 1 to 2 awards of approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 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./RPh)** with an academic rank not exceeding assistant professor and **no current or prior history as a Principal Investigator of NIH or VA funding**. An applicant should be a **5/8th compensated VA employee** and should **not be an IPA/WOC, unless the IPA/WOC is performed under the direction of a "VA 5/8th compensated PI" with intention of becoming a 5/8th compensated VA PI**. 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. The **application should state** if this criteria is met.

Proposals will be scored by a panel of 2 or more reviewers with results expected by March 2012. 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 VA mentors** must be provided and letters from **collaborators** are encouraged. Letters from department chairpersons or division directors are not required.

The proposed work should **begin within 3 months** of the award notification date and be **completed within 18 months** of that date. It is required that approvals will be obtained from the IRB (Institutional Review Board), IACUC (Institutional Animal Care & 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 may not begin until approvals are complete. **Annual progress reports** must be submitted to the IIMR at 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 **6 month extension** to complete the project may be requested through the IIMR at the time of the annual report. 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.

Applications Due: 1/14/2013

Complete Submission Deadline: 1/28/2013:

Anticipated funding initiation: 3/25/2013

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

Thomas Sharp, MD IIMR Chair, 988-3514; Thomas.sharp@va.gov.

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Eligibility, *State how criteria are met:*

- MD, DO or PhD VA employee with at least 5/8th 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 pilot awards of < \$40,000

Application

- Due Jan 15th
- Face Page with Title, Investigator, and Department Affiliation
- Body : 5 page limit, 11 point type
 - Specific aims
 - Background
 - Preliminary results
 - Work proposed
- Career plans & Resources, 1 page limit
 - Overall career research plan
 - Career plans with the VA
 - Resources available (external funding, space, mentors, equipment)
- Appendix, References, Bibliography (if provided)
 - 2 page limit, plus supporting VA mentor letter(s)
- Budget: 1 page detailing how funds will be expended
- Assigned to at least 2 independent reviewers
- Scored on a 1-5 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

Approvals:

***All approvals (ie: **IRB, IACUC, Safety, and VA R&D**) must be sent to IIMR:

marta.sears@va.gov.

“YIA_2013 Announcement_Rev 12 3 2012.doc”

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