

# New Mexico IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (NM-INBRE) Call for Applications

## Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

### A. Purpose

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released the Funding Opportunity Announcement ([FOA PAR-17-160](#)) for IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), intended to strengthen the biomedical research capacity in IDeA eligible states. The NM-INBRE program intends to provide 2019 funding for developmental pilot-scale research projects. Awards will include Focus Research Projects (\$5K to \$25K direct costs), Full Pilot Research Projects (\$50K to \$75K direct costs), and Research Education Projects (\$5K to \$40K). Awards may be renewed on an annual basis; all funded awards will be subject to annual progress evaluations.

### B. Programmatic assessment of NM-INBRE funded research progress includes the following criteria:

1. Publication in peer-reviewed journals, adhering to NIH Public Access policy<sup>1</sup>
2. Submission of external grant proposals
3. Presentation at scientific meetings or conferences
4. Student research training and mentoring
5. Progress toward
  - a) Project specific aims
  - b) Individual career development plan and benchmarks
6. Contribution to NM-INBRE Network
7. Community-Based Participatory Research Impacts and Relationships, as applicable

### C. Key Dates

1. [Statement of Interest](#)<sup>2</sup> due date: Sept 15, 2017
2. Preliminary proposal due date: April 1, 2018  
*Instructions forthcoming*
3. Invitation to selected applicants to submit full proposal: June 1, 2018
4. Complete proposal due date (by invitation): Sept 15, 2018  
*Instructions forthcoming*
5. Earliest award start date: May 2019

### D. Background

The NM-INBRE Program is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NIH Grant Number P20GM103451. NM-INBRE strengthens biomedical research at New Mexico's universities and prepares faculty and students for participation in research programs of the NIH. For more information on the NM-INBRE visit [www.nminbre.org](http://www.nminbre.org). The program's mission is to create supportive research and training environments, facilitate communication and collaborations among participants, and provide access to core facilities within the Mountain West Research Consortium (MWRC): Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. For more information on the MWRC visit [www.mountainwestconsortium.org](http://www.mountainwestconsortium.org).

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<sup>1</sup> More information is available at <http://publicaccess.nih.gov>

<sup>2</sup> Statement of Interest Form is available here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019\\_DRPP\\_Interest](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019_DRPP_Interest)

#### E. NM-INBRE Research Goals

NM-INBRE is a faculty and student-development program that emphasizes the maturation of research projects into comprehensive research programs providing opportunities for scientific advancement, professional growth, student development, and collaboration across network institutions and beyond. NM-INBRE stresses progress toward establishing independent research programs in order to sustain research activities beyond the INBRE award. The NM-INBRE therefore expects faculty investigators to take active steps toward securing external funding, and encourages investigators to submit proposals to the NIH and other federal agencies.

#### F. NM-INBRE Network Primarily Undergraduate Institutions

Applications are invited from faculty employed at NM-INBRE partner institutions:

1. Eastern New Mexico University
2. New Mexico Highlands University
3. New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
4. Northern New Mexico College
5. San Juan College
6. Western New Mexico University

#### G. Developmental Research Project Program (DRPP)

1. The NM-INBRE invites basic, clinical, translational, and/or community-based participatory research projects that address important biomedical problems, addresses health disparities, *and* fit within one or more of the following NM-INBRE research thematic focus areas:
  - a) Thematic focus area: **Structure and Function of Biomolecules**  
Aims to understand the molecular and structural mechanisms underlying the functions of proteins that mediate critical cellular processes
  - b) Thematic focus area: **Pathogens**  
Builds on existing knowledge in infectious disease, immunology, and inflammation, strengthening a developing biodefense community
  - c) Thematic focus area: **Cell and Organism**  
Examines complex physiological processes, such as hypertension, memory, cell division and oogenesis
  - d) Thematic focus area: **Population and Community health research**  
Aims to eliminate health disparities affecting underserved populations, especially in native communities in New Mexico, including research involving investigators and community members using true community-based participatory research methods. Also includes community health education.
2. The NM-INBRE further encourages submission of projects that align with the *Signature Program* areas of the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC) Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). The UNM HSC organizes its research efforts into Signature Research Programs (see [HSC Programs](#)) to enrich the environment for the advancement of clinical/translational research and to establish comprehensive research programs that have "bench to bedside" and community components. Programs are focused around critical health problems and include the following:
  - a) Brain and Behavioral Illnesses
  - b) Cancer
  - c) Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases
  - d) Child Health Research
  - e) Environmental Health
  - f) Infectious Diseases and Immunity

For more information on Signature Programs visit <http://hsc.unm.edu/research/research-centers/signature-research-programs/index.html>

## Section II. Types of Awards Available

### A. Focus Research Projects

**Funding level 1:** \$5,000 - \$25,000 annual direct costs

**Funding duration** depends on application type and justification for multiple-year project

**Eligible institutions:** all partner institutions listed in [Section I. F above](#).

#### Project types:

1. Small-scale research project
  - a) Focused study that fits within one or more NM-INBRE thematic research areas
  - b) Can be independent or collaborative\*
  - c) Aims to develop results for publication and NIH R-type grant proposal
  - d) Can be used to transition to a Full INBRE-funded Research Project (for NMT, NMHU, ENMU only)
  - e) Priority will be given to projects that include bioinformatics tools
  - f) Must address plans for faculty career development
  - g) Must address plans for student involvement, development, and training
2. Mini-Sabbatical
  - a) Immersion experience at INBRE lead institution (NMSU, UNM or MWRC\* institution)
  - b) Work with investigator who has established research program
  - c) Develop new data for collaborative publications and/or grant submissions
  - d) Learn new approaches or techniques to take back to home institution
  - e) Can be affiliated with IDeA Clinical Translational Research Program\*/UNM Clinical Translational Science Center

### B. Research Education Projects

**Funding level 2:** \$5,000 - \$40,000 annual direct costs

**Funding duration** depends on application type and justification for multiple-year project

**Eligible Institutions:** all partner institutions listed in [Section I. F., above](#)

#### Project types:

1. Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience ([CURE](#))
  - a) Development and implementation of a student research training course that provides hands-on exposure to research and training methods and concepts that are not available through conventional classroom activities, and may not be available to every student in the form of a traditional research apprenticeship
  - b) The Model may be inquiry-based (the answer is *known* to the instructor) or discovery-based (the answer is *unknown* to the instructor)
  - c) Priority will be given to those projects where student work includes bioinformatics tools
2. Course development or improvement
  - a) For existing courses that can attract promising students to health-related science through didactic education
  - b) May create or adapt and improve an existing course
  - c) Proposals should demonstrate how the research and education environment will be improved
  - d) Budget may include supplies, infrastructure, and/or salaries

### C. Full Research Projects

**Funding level 3:** \$50,000 - \$75,000 annual direct costs

**Eligible Institutions:** NMT, NMHU, ENMU

**Funding duration** depends on application type and justification for multiple-year project

#### **Characteristics of Full DRPP Projects:**

1. Full-term study that fits within NM-INBRE thematic research areas or Signature programs
2. Can be independent or collaborative\*
3. Aims to develop results for publication and NIH R-type grant proposal
4. Annual Renewal of funds dependent on progress toward publications and grants
5. Must address plans for faculty career development
6. Must include a mentor and mentoring plans
7. Must address plans for student involvement, development, and training

\*Note: Network collaborative research can include any of the following:

- Investigators from NM-INBRE network institutions (see [Section I. F above](#))
- Investigators from NMSU or UNM
- Mountain West Research Consortium (MWRC): AK, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, WY. Visit [MWRC](#)
- IDeA Clinical Translational Research Collaborative (CTR) Project (refer to [PAR-14-303](#))

## Section III. Eligibility

**Please note: eligibility requirements differ based on award type. Please refer to the eligible institutions listed for each award type in [Section II. above](#).**

Any individual or collaborative team with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, as well as individuals with disabilities, are always encouraged to apply for NM-INBRE support. Typically, the PI of a NM-INBRE application possesses a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree. S/he must also have a full-time faculty appointment at the applicant institution and for those applying for Full pilot projects, eligibility to apply for a NIH R-type grants (R01, R03, R15, R21, etc.) is required. Faculty appointments may include tenure, clinical, and research-track positions. Preference will be given to new investigators who have not yet competed successfully for an NIH research grant (refer to [NIH New Investigator](#)). Applications may include collaborators from other (non-NM-INBRE partner) institutions. Applicants must verify eligibility of proposed collaborators (refer to [FOA Number PAR-17-160](#)).

Full pilot research project investigators at the awardee and network partner institutions will be expected to devote at least 50 percent of their professional effort (equivalent to 6.0 person months) to career development and research activities. Institutions must provide release time for project investigators, thus permitting a significant time commitment to the research enterprise. To allow flexibility to investigators who cannot devote 6.0 consecutive months throughout the year, the effort can be distributed over the year to achieve a total of 6 person months (for example, 3.0 person months during academic year and 3.0 person months in summer (up to three months) to account for a yearly 6.0 person months' effort).

Individuals who have completed an INBRE-funded FULL research project or who have achieved independent investigator status are eligible to apply only for Focus research or Research Education Projects, as described in [Section II. A.](#) and [Section II. B., above](#).

To submit a [statement of interest](#) and preliminary proposal, applicants will follow the key dates listed herein. Full proposals will be invited after initial review of statement of interest and preliminary proposals; full proposal review will commence according to the published schedule.

## Section IV. Contacts

If you have questions about this call you may send inquiries to the NM-INBRE Program Liaison at your institution, listed in the table below.

Institutional Contacts

| <b>Institution</b>                     | <b>Liaison</b>      | <b>Email</b>               |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)   | Dr. John Montgomery | John.Montgomery@enmu.edu   |
| New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) | Dr. David Sammeth   | d7sammeth@nmhu.edu         |
| New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) | Dr. Carol Linder    | clinder@nmhu.edu           |
| New Mexico Tech (NMT)                  | Dr. Snežna Rogelj   | Snezna.Rogelj@nmt.edu      |
| Northern New Mexico College (NNMC)     | Dr. Ulises Ricoy    | uricoy@nnmc.edu            |
| San Juan College (SJC)                 | Dr. Eric Miller     | millere@sanjuancollege.edu |
| Western New Mexico College (WNMU)      | Dr. Jeff Hill       | jeffrey.hill@wnmu.edu      |