COBRE Pre-Proposal Instructions

Overview
Dr. Jill Higginson is preparing an NIH COBRE application on the topic of rehabilitation research. We are soliciting proposals for the major projects that would be included in this application.

Goals and Background
The NIH COBRE mechanism is designed to fund Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence. In this COBRE on rehabilitation, we plan to build on the successes of the Delaware Rehabilitation Institute and their 15 years of COBRE funding on osteoarthritis. We will also partner with UD's Center for Clinical and Translational Research award (a.k.a., the ACCEL CTR Program). The COBRE will consist of an administrative core, 3-5 major projects and 1-2 research cores.

For our purposes, rehabilitation research is defined broadly, beginning with the regeneration of osteocytes, chondrocytes and neurons and continuing to tissues, organs, disease studies and clinical trials. Current projects fit in the general categories of neuromuscular or orthopaedic rehabilitation but other topics will be considered. Lab bench research is welcome, but it should have a clearly defined path to translate that work to the clinic. An interdisciplinary and multi-college effort is highly desired.

Major Projects
COBRE major projects will be funded at approximately $150,000 per year direct costs. The proposed projects should be three years in scope. PIs are expected to secure NIH R01 (or equivalent) funding soon—hopefully by the end of the third year, at which time they would “graduate” and relinquish their slot on the COBRE grant to allow another investigator to take their place.

PI Qualifications
COBRE major project PIs must be “new investigators” by NIH standards, i.e., they must not have been PI on an NIH R01 grant (see https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new_investigators/index.htm#definition). Also, the NIH does not allow investigators to serve as PI on more than one grant from the IDeA program at the same time, which means that if PIs have funding from COBRE, INBRE or CTR grants they may not serve as PI of a major project unless they complete or relinquish that other award prior to commencement of funding.

Pre-proposal Format
The pre-proposal shall consist of the 1-page Specific Aims page. It should be in NIH format (.5 inch margins all around, 11 point Arial font). Preceding that one page should be a title page that, in addition to the title, contains the name of the PI with contact information, and a list of collaborators on the project and their affiliations (IDeA states preferred). Finally, the PI biosketch (NIH format) must also be included.

Due Dates
These pre-proposals should be sent to higginson@udel.edu by October 1, 2018. The PIs of the selected pre-proposals will notified within two weeks. For those selected, full proposals (specific aims + 12 page research plans, budgets, biosketches, etc.) will be due December 1, 2018 (for NIH submission by January 25, 2019). Contact Dr. Jill Higginson (higginson@udel.edu) for additional information.