

**NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Pilot Research Grants**  
**Molecular Design of Advanced Biomaterials, PI Tatyana Polenova**

**2017 Call for Proposals**

UD's NIH Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) entitled **Molecular Design of Advanced Biomaterials** is pleased to announce its annual competition for COBRE pilot research grants. The pilot projects will provide seed funding for a one-year period to turn new ideas into full-scale individual-investigator and multi-investigator proposals. In 2017-2018, the program will provide funds for one new pilot project. The project will be typically awarded for 1 year, with \$75,000 annual direct costs.

**Goals** The goals of our pilot research project program is to initiate new research directions, establish new interdisciplinary collaborations, including collaborations with off-campus clinician-researchers, to fund translational research on lead materials developed in the Center, to accelerate the development of biomedical applications emerging from the Center, and to expand the cadre of junior and established faculty conducting research in the area of *biomaterials* including but not limited to the emphasis on the strategic directions of the Center in i) peptide- and protein- based materials for tissue regeneration; ii) elastomeric polymer based biomaterials for tissue engineering; and iii) bio-responsive copolymers for payload transport and drug delivery.

**Timeline** Proposals should be submitted electronically to Vera Vladimirova (veravlad@udel.edu) as a single PDF document by noon on Monday, July 10, 2017. Please copy Tatyana Polenova (tpolenov@udel.edu) on your submission.

**Format** Each proposal should include the following sections:

- Title page (NIH Form Page 1)
- Description (abstract) (NIH Form Page 2)
- Research plan (3 pages maximum, excluding references)
- PI and key investigators biographical sketch(es) (NIH format)
- Budget (NIH 398 Forms Page 4 and 5, including detailed budget justification)
- Other support (NIH form)
- A letter of agreement to participate from a mentor (if required, see below)
- If animal work is involved, include 5 vertebrate animal points

An NIH cover page is not required, nor need the proposal be routed through the Research office, but a title page needs to be included that also shows the name and the affiliation of the PI and co-PI (where applicable). The proposals will be reviewed by the external COBRE External Advisory Committee.

**Eligibility** Any UD faculty member eligible to apply for external federal funding, regardless of department or college affiliation, or faculty rank, may apply. Preference will be given to junior faculty who have not yet received tenure and do not have independent funding. Collaborations between faculty at different career stages are encouraged, particularly where those are aimed at exploring innovative concepts and ideas and bring new expertise to the COBRE.

**Budget and Allowable Expenses** Up to \$75,000 per year (direct costs) may be requested plus 56% F&A (indirect costs). Any expenditures that are directly related to the proposed project are allowed, with the exceptions noted below. Examples of allowable expenses are: graduate student salary and fringe, postdoc salary and fringe, laboratory supplies and expendables, animals and animal-care costs, and research instrumentation core fees. PI salary should not be included. Examples of unallowed expenses are: equipment, travel to scientific conferences, entertainment, meals etc. A budget period of up to two years may be requested, and budgets for the full period should be provided on the budget forms. PIs who have had prior COBRE support should include a short section (<1 page, not counted under the 5 page limit) outlining the progress on that prior work, including effort and success in leveraging that research into independent external support.

**Prioritization** COBRE pilot project program gives priority to different classes of eligible PIs, as follows:

- Junior investigators who do not have, or have not previously had, prior NIH funding as PIs are given priority over funded junior faculty and more senior faculty.
- Faculty with previous COBRE funding from this or other COBRE or INBRE grants are given lower priority than those who are new investigators.

**Forms can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.**