

**Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Cardiovascular Health**  
**Pilot Project Request for Proposals and Application Instructions**

UD's new NIH Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Cardiovascular Health is pleased to announce a call for COBRE pilot research grants to expand and enhance the scientific goal of the center, which is to catalyze cardiovascular health research at UD. The COBRE pilot projects will provide funding for a one-year period that will allow investigators to develop more substantial external NIH support from individual or multi-investigator proposals.

We anticipate funding 2-3 projects this year. Projects will be awarded for 1 year, with a budget of \$50,000 in direct costs.

**Pilot Project Goals:** We are utilizing a broad definition of cardiovascular health thus researchers have the opportunity to study the basic underlying mechanisms of CVD; consequences of poor or declining CV function or a CV event. Additionally, investigators may study interventions to improve CV function or health. This allows investigators the opportunity to study a wide range of cardiovascular topics that may be in the form of technology development, basic research, translational research, or clinical research and could occur at the level of the cell or at higher levels up to and including the community.

**Timeline:** Proposals should be submitted electronically to [ksteuern@udel.edu](mailto:ksteuern@udel.edu) as a single PDF document by **noon on Friday, August 11, 2017**. Proposals selected for funding will begin following approval by NIH.

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

- NIH face page ([Face Page](#))
- NIH Page 2: ([Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel](#))
- Detailed Budget ([Form Page 4](#)) and Budget Justification ([Form Page 5/Continuation Format Page](#), as needed)
- Biographical Sketch(es) of PI and Key Personnel ([Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples](#))
- Research Strategy (see below)
- Success from Prior Awards: PIs who have led a project supported by COBRE, INBRE or CTR grants should include a short section (1 page maximum) outlining the progress on that prior work, including their success in leveraging that research into independent external support and explaining why further support is necessary.
- NIH Protections for Human Subjects and Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children, and PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report, if applicable (see below)
- Vertebrate animals justification and protection, if applicable (see below)
- A letter of Support from the PI's Department Head/Chair
- A letter agreeing to participate, including support for the project, from a Mentor

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

Proposals do not need to be routed through the research office. Proposals will be reviewed by external reviewers and the COBRE External Advisory Committee.

Research Strategy should contain the specific aims of the project, significance, innovation, and approach. The page limit for these sections together is 4 pages. Investigators must provide a statistical analysis subsection in the approach. Applicants should be sure to consider the NIH emphasis on scientific premise and rigor in their proposals.

IRB or IACUC approval may be pending at the time of submission but if applicable is required prior to selected pilot projects being sent to NIH for funding approval.

**Budget:** Up to \$50,000 per year (direct costs) may be requested to support graduate students or staff, supplies, travel, etc. Institutional commitment in the form of faculty release or time is expected therefore salary for the PI is discouraged as a budget item.

**Eligibility and Evaluation:** NIH defined New Investigators are eligible to apply and are required to have a mentor. Proposals will be evaluated on scientific merit as done in NIH study sections by external reviewers. Evaluation will consist of evaluating the overall impact and the likelihood to be developed into a fundable full NIH proposal. When comparing proposals with similar impact scores the following preference will be given:

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

**Additional Information:** For additional information contact Dave Edwards, COBRE PI at [dge@udel.edu](mailto:dge@udel.edu).