August 5, 2015

RE: Request for Proposals: Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC) Pilot Research Proposals

Dear BBRC Researchers:

The Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC) invites applications for Pilot Research Project proposals. A letter of intent (LOI) is due by September 8, 2015 (to the address provided below). If your letter of intent is approved by the review committee, you will be invited to submit a full proposal. Completed applications must be received by October 9, 2015. Please make sure that you list at least one UTEP collaborator on your letter of intent that has different training/expertise than you. The total funds for each award is $25,000 for one year, and a total of four awards will be made. Funding for these pilot projects is expected to begin on or about April 1, 2016 through March 30, 2017.

The objective of the BBRC Pilot Research program is to support innovative, collaborative and cutting-edge research in areas that may yield discoveries that can be translated into health improvements for the border region and beyond. In addition, these projects are intended to increase the pool of biomedical researchers with interest and expertise specifically focused on improving health in border communities. Critical to the success of the overall program and individual projects will be close interaction and collaboration among investigators involved in the three major ongoing BBRC research project areas (Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Toxicology and Cancer Biology, and Neurosciences and Metabolic Disorders). Applicants are encouraged to prepare proposals that are multidisciplinary involving laboratory and field based studies. Proposals with strong Community Engagement or Partnership components are strongly encouraged to apply. Priority for selection will be given to Junior investigators without current funding and investigators that have not previously received BBRC Pilot grant support. The ultimate goal of the pilot projects is to generate preliminary data that can be used to prepare competitive proposals to obtain extramural funding to further support the research.

Please share this notice with potential collaborators on campus as well as within the El Paso and Juarez medical community. Also note that receipt of a BBRC Pilot Award precludes the investigator from the NIH SCORE funding mechanisms during the period in which the Pilot Award is active. Interested parties may contact me to determine whether the concept you are proposing is relevant to the BBRC mission and the major BBRC research projects. Please see next page for required components of the LOI.

Sincerely,

Renato J. Aguilera, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Program Director and
Director of the Cytometry, Screening and Imaging Core Facility
of the Border Biomedical Research Center
The University of Texas at El Paso
Required components of the Letter of Intent for the 2015 BBRC Pilot Research Project competition:

1) Applicant’s name, institution, address, email address, and phone number; name of institution, and names of collaborators, if any, and their titles, institution and contact information.

2) The title of the proposal (81 characters or less)

3) BBRC priority research area: (IDI, etc).

4) Short description of the proposed research (2 page maximum):

5) Relevance to the BBRC mission (200 word maximum):

6) Specific Aims:

7) References:

To expedite the review process, please send LOI to my email address: raguilera@utep.edu