

UIC Global Health & Well-Being Research Seed Grant Program RFA

Purpose

In cooperation with Great Cities Institute, the UIC Global Excellence Task Force and the UIC College of Medicine's Center for Global Health has established an annual seed grant program designed to foster new trans-disciplinary and mixed and multiple methods research in global health and well-being at UIC. In particular, these grants will encourage new pilot research with a substantial likelihood of gaining external funding or that can be completed with a limited budget.

Priority will be given to projects that: 1) address global health and well-being research priorities; 2) integrate multiple approaches which can include, for example, biomedical science, social science, humanities, architecture, art, communications, urban planning, business, criminal justice, diversity, social justice and engineering; 3) incorporate mixed and multiple methods; 4) include investigators from both UIC's East and West campuses.

For purposes of the seed grant program, the following definitions should be used as guidance:

- ***Global Health and Well-Being:*** Collaborative trans-national research and action for promoting health and well-being for all (Beaglehole & Bonita). Global health can focus on public health, mental health, well-being, environment, healthcare access, violence, disparities, and other global threats and responses, but must somehow engage health as a major construct. According to the WHO, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."
- ***Trans-disciplinary:*** Researchers work jointly using a shared conceptual framework drawing together disciplinary-specific theories, concepts, and approaches to address common problems (Kessel & Rosenfeld).
- ***Mixed and Multiple Methods Research:*** A research study that involves either the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods-or-data (mixed methods; Johnson, Onwuegbuzie, & Turner, 2007) or the use of multiple methods and multiple theoretical and philosophical perspectives (multiple methods; Brewer & Hunter).

Eligibility

- Tenure and non-tenure track faculty of any rank or department are eligible to serve as PI's
- Principal Investigators must have a full-time (at least .8 FTE) faculty appointment.
- Proposals must involve a minimum of 2 colleges representing both East and West Campuses (only one of which can be from the health sciences).
- Non-UIC co-investigators or partners from other countries, especially Low- and Middle- Income Countries, are allowed.

Awards

Each approved project will be awarded up to \$15K from the campus. It is expected that an additional \$5K be matched using funds from the home department, college or center for a total award of up to \$20K. Approximately (4) grants will be awarded. The awards are designed to support research activities and expenses. No-cost extensions may be requested and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Deadlines

Letter of Intent: Friday, June 3, 2016 - Noon

Application: Friday, July 15, 2016 - Noon

Awards announced: September 2016

Project Start: October 2016

Information Session

To assist potential applicants in developing competitive proposals we will conduct an open session at which we will describe the seed grant program as well as mixed and multiple methods research and do Q & A. The session will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in 1940 W. Taylor, second floor conference room, Room 230.

Letter of Intent

Faculty who intend to submit applications must complete and email the letter of intent form to Jeanne Burian, Program Coordinator at jburian@uic.edu. The letter of intent is an administrative tool and will be used to identify appropriate reviewers and potential eligibility issues. It is not used to prescreen and eliminate proposals.

Application Instructions – (all necessary forms are available on globalhealth.uic.edu site)

Content should be ordered as follows:

1. Cover Page: Approvals and certifications need not be in place at time of application. If necessary, attach Key Personnel form .
2. Signatures : Signatures are required for Principal Investigators and their respective unit heads. No signatures are required for Co-Is or key personnel.
3. Response to prior reviews: 1 page, resubmissions only, highlighting any changes. Please attach prior reviews. (In particular, these grants will encourage new pilot research with a substantial likelihood of gaining external funding, resubmissions based on external sponsor reviews, or that can be completed with a limited budget.)
3. Abstract (or Lay Summary): 1 page – Detailed Instructions Below
4. Specific Aims and Objectives: 1 page
5. Research Plan: 5 pages - Detailed Instructions Below
6. Environment and Resources: 1 page - Detailed Instructions Below
7. Proposed Budget : Detailed Instructions Below
8. Budget Justification
9. CVs: For PIs, Co-PIs, and Key Personnel. Up to 4 pages for each person, highlighting relevant qualifications to this proposal. NSF, NIH, or other appropriate biosketch-type formats are allowed. If using NIH, personal statement section should be updated for this project.
10. Current and Pending Support : PIs only, outline past five years of activity, noting areas of potential funding overlap with this proposal. Include internal (UIC) and external sources of funding. If additional space is needed, please duplicate the form and label “continuation”. Do not include proposals submitted but not funded.
11. Only other allowable attachments:
 - i. Department/College letters pledging cost share or other extraordinary contributions over which PI has no control (e.g. Space, faculty time, and other resources necessary to conduct proposal).

- ii. Department or College letters confirming investigator's independence. Do not include general letters of support.
- iii. Letters outlining administrative plans and agreements relevant to carrying out the research
- iv. Surveys or measurement instruments

Lay Summary

This should present in no more than one page (12 point font and 3/4 inch margins) a concise statement of what you are going to do, how you are going to do it, and why, in lay language understandable to a multidisciplinary review panel. The summary should:

1. Identify what issues or questions will be explored and the potential long-term global impact and benefits.
2. Describe how the proposed work could be supported at a later date by an external agency, if appropriate.
3. Provide a summary time-line for the scholarship by major aims, goals, or milestones.
4. Define any terms that are unique to the proposal's fields.
5. Highlight critical administrative plans and agreements that will be prerequisites for interdisciplinary collaboration.
6. Statement outlining department/college cost share or other commitments to the project.

Research Plan

The research plan can be single-spaced and should have a minimum of 12 point font and 3/4 inch margins. **The five page limit includes any space allocated to figures, tables, references, etc.** References may be 10 point font. This should describe the proposed research including key questions, methodology, qualifications of key personnel, needed and available resources, timeline, and management. **The following section headers must be used in each proposal:**

- A. Significance
- B. Innovation
- C. Investigators
- D. Prior Work
- E. Approach
- F. Outcomes Assessment
- G. Extramural Leverage

Environment & Resources

A one-page (12 point font and 3/4 inch margins) description of the resources, working arrangements, and key administrative plans or agreements required to implement each project should be described. The purpose of outlining key administrative plans and agreement is to demonstrate the PI will have access to resources - equipment, space, sites, material, research subjects, etc. - outside of his/her control but necessary for the conduct of the research. A distinction must be made between those resources that are already in place (including staff) and those resources that must be added to advance the project.

In some cases, it may help to include a letter/email in the appendix confirming the arrangement. This letter should come from the department head, dean, or whoever has the authority to provide such a letter. If the applicant is from the head's lab, the letter should come from the dean. Examples might include:

- Use of equipment managed by the UIC Research Resources Center
- Access to Chicago Park District facilities/special populations/subjects
- Access to special reagents, materials, or equipment managed by another organization
- Specific college or department resources:
 - Currently available to complete the pilot research
 - Pledged to complete the pilot research (dedicated space, protected faculty time, cost share funds, etc.).
 - Future support for PI's extramural submission based on the pilot data.

Budget & Budget Justification

Applications require an appropriate budget with full justification of personnel, materials, supplies, and other expenses necessary for the proposed project period. Note:

- Limited travel for purpose of professional meetings or essential collaboration may be approved.
- Equipment requests exceeding \$2,000 must be matched on a 1:1 basis
- Faculty salary support is not allowed.
- Graduate student salary and fringe benefits are eligible expenses.
- Tuition remission is not allowed.
- Indirect costs are not allowed except in the case of subcontracts to other institutions.

Submission

Proposals should be submitted electronically as one PDF file to Jeanne Burian, Program Coordinator at jburian@uic.edu by noon on the due date of July 15, 2016. Do not submit multiple attachments.

Review Process

Seed grant proposals will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Chancellor's Global Excellence Task Force and other qualified faculty from multiple departments on both East and West campus, including those with global health and well-being expertise.

Review Criteria

Significance/Innovation

The overall quality, relevance and innovation of the questions and problems to be addressed.

Global Health and Well-Being

How does this project address global health and well-being research priorities and how will the expected findings advance the field in terms of science, programs, practice, or policy?

Trans-disciplinary

Why does pursuit of these questions will benefit from a transdisciplinary approach? How will the composition of the research team lead to new discoveries, significant advances, new technologies, or other broader impacts bringing distinction to UIC? How does this team differ from or build upon past associations, and why is each contribution essential?

Multiple and Mixed Methods

How does this proposal incorporate multiple and mixed methods? Why is this necessary? What expertise does the investigators have to carry out the multiple and mixed methods data collection, analysis, and report writing?

Investigators

The qualifications and credentials of the PIs will be considered. It is expected that lead PIs will be regarded by their peers as emerging leaders in their respective fields. If the PI has been a past recipient of other internal UIC grants (e.g. CCTS, CRB, Discovery, AOE, Ignite) their past performance (extramural submissions, leveraging, publications etc.) will be considered. Are each PI or co-I's expected roles and responsibilities clearly outlined? How does each PI or co-I's discipline explicate, enhance, and otherwise contribute to the successful completion of the research.

Prior Work

What prior work have the investigators completed which supports the proposed research? Were the investigators recipients of other internal UIC funding (e.g. CCTS, CRB, Discovery, Areas of Excellence Awards, etc)? If the investigators have received one of these awards within the past five years, summarize the project purpose and outcomes, including the title, project period inclusive of no cost extensions, total budget, and submissions/awards to date.

Outcomes Assessment

Where appropriate, the application should include specification of outcome measures, process measures, and formative measures for pilot testing, implementation, adoption, and sustainability.

The Seed Grant Program will assess the outcomes of each award based upon the: 1) Quality and number of peer-reviewed publications; 2) Grant application submissions to outside peer-reviewed funding agencies; 3) External grants awarded to recipients of Global Health Research Seed Grants

Extramural Leverage

What are the specific and credible plans for submission(s) to an external funding agency (if appropriate)? If available, applicant should identify the sponsor, specific program name, FOA/RFA number, mechanism (if any), anticipated deadline(s), or other information provided from correspondence with program officers, etc. If this information is not available, applicant should identify targets for inquiries/white papers and alternative strategies for securing extramural support. Whenever possible, multiple sponsors (government, foundation, corporate, etc.) should be identified.

Appropriateness

The need for and suitability of the initiative approach; whether this approach will add significantly to what could be accomplished through other modes of support.

Feasibility

Appropriateness and adequacy of any management plans and arrangements: the adequacy of the organizational and administrative plans; the appropriateness of the budget; and the mechanism to evaluate the initiative's progress will be considered.

Support

The nature and level of resources available from the colleges/departments and from other sponsoring units will be considered.

Regulatory issues

Adequacy of the plans for protection of human and animal subjects, if applicable, as well as other regulatory concerns.

Program Administration

The Seed Grant program will be administered through the UIC Center for Global Health and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. The Program co-Directors are Stevan Weine MD, Psychiatry and UIC Center for Global Health (smweine@uic.edu), and Teresa Cordova, PhD, UIC Great Cities Institute (tcordova@uic.edu). The Program Coordinator is Jeanne Burian (jburian@uic.edu). A Seed Grant Steering Committee comprised of the Chancellor's Global Excellence Task Force and selected faculty with global health and well-being expertise will advise and assist the Seed Grant Program Co-Directors.

Post Award

Each award will also be assigned to either Seed Grant Program co-Directors, who will function as Project Officers so as to ensure that projects achieve their objectives and generate publications and competitive proposals for external funding. Once awarded, grant funds will be administered by the faculty members' home department or center.

Progress reports will be required while the grant is active. Successful awardees will be asked to present their work as part of a Global Health and Well-Being symposium, and may be asked to review for subsequent competitions. These and other details will be outlined in the Notice of Award terms and conditions.

Questions

In order to help faculty to prepare high-quality competitive applications, the Seed Grant Program leadership will be available for consultation to applicants. Questions should be referred to jburian@uic.edu, this is a common email address for the program and will reach Drs. Weine, Cordova and Ms. Burian, Program Coordinator. Your questions will be the basis of a FAQ which will be posted at www.globalhealth.uic.edu

References

- Beaglehole R, Bonita R: What is global health? *Global Health Action* 2010, 3: 5142.
- Brewer J, Hunter A: *Foundations of Multimethod Research: Synthesizing Styles*. Thousand Oaks, CA, 2006.
- Kessel F, Rosenfield P: Toward transdisciplinary research: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* Volume 35(2), Supplement, August 2008, Pages S225–S230
- Johnson B, Onwuebuozie A, Truner L: Toward Definition of Mixed Methods Research. *J Mixed Methods Research*, Oct 2007.