



Office of the Vice President for Research

Research

Announcement

Two institutes offer obesity research seed grants; deadline Nov. 16

The Fralin Life Science Institute and the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) together invite applications for seed funds in the broad area of Obesity Research. The seed grant program provides funding for promising research at the intersection of life sciences and the social sciences. The goal is to stimulate scholarly initiative by encouraging faculty to explore new directions in research and scholarship. Collaborative research across disciplines is strongly encouraged. We are particularly interested in projects that show a high probability of leading to extramural funding. Thus, the funds will typically be used to pursue pilot studies, feasibility studies, or preliminary research that initiates a larger line of research.

Requests for funding to support research within any area that impacts the Molecular, Physiological, Psychological or Social aspects of obesity are encouraged. Funds to support seminar speakers or a small symposium on the Blacksburg campus will also be considered if proposed by a group of investigators.

Funds Available

Approximately 10 seed grants will be awarded, with no individual award exceeding \$10,000. Team projects that involve any combination of the above theme areas will be considered for a higher level of funding. Awarded funds will be administered by the Fralin Institute and must be expended this fiscal year. Funds can be used toward faculty time or course buyout in Spring 2010, student support, technical support, including staff salary or wages, supplies, software, and small equipment purchases. Funds will not be awarded for summer salary or conference travel.

Eligible Investigators

Any faculty member or principal investigator of Virginia Tech may submit an application. Faculty rank, department, and affiliation of other participants should be included in the project proposal.

Application Instructions

The application should be no longer than 2 pages (single spaced, 12 pt font) and should include the following:

1. Title
2. A brief description of the project (significance, specific aims, methods)
3. List of senior personnel involved in the project
4. Amount requested with budget
5. Current and pending funding of the senior personnel
6. Anticipated title, agency and date for submission of future extramural funding

Submission

Please submit proposals and/or questions to **Tracey Schroeder** at tschroed@vt.edu or 231-9821. **Due date is November 16, 2009.**

Review

The proposals will be reviewed by the Directors of Fralin and ISCE, and the Department Head of HNFE, and evaluated according to the following Review Criteria:

1. The intellectual merit and novelty of the research
2. The likelihood that substantial grant funding can be obtained as a result of the proposed research
3. The likelihood that publications in peer reviewed journals will result from the proposed research

Awards will be announced by December 4.

Reporting Requirements

A brief (1 page) report to be submitted at the end of the fiscal year that describes outcomes and how the funds were expended is a condition of funding. It is also expected that the investigators have all resources necessary (lab, equipment, etc) to conduct the research with the exception of the items and personnel requested.