NDSU Bioinformatics Seed Grant Program
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issued: September 18, 2015

Notification of Intent to Apply (REQUIRED): Email to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu by Oct. 1, 2015
Application Deadline: 4:00PM CST on October 16, 2015
Total Funds Available: $80,000. Awards are anticipated to be made by November 1, 2015. Funding is guaranteed to June 30, 2016, with the possibility of an extension.

The NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity invites competitive proposals for Bioinformatics Seed Grant research projects. These seed grants are intended to launch promising new research projects in bioinformatics, bringing them to the point where they can attract more funding from external sources. NDSU hopes to foster the development of a critical mass in bioinformatics research.

The field of bioinformatics and computational biology is one of the hottest scientific areas nationally and internationally. Grown out of traditional fields of health informatics, biostatistics, information sciences, computer sciences, molecular biology and genetics, bioinformatics has grown rapidly due to the enormous amount of complex data generated and the concomitant need for sophisticated data analysis. Research funding initiatives from many federal agencies (NIH, NSF, USDA, CDC, DOE, DHS, NASA, DARPA, etc.) have a significant and specific focus on bioinformatics.

Proposals should combine innovative use of computational and informatics capabilities with a biological or biomedical research topic. A limit of up to twenty percent (20%) of the budget may be used for generating new experimental data.

Eligibility:
Full-time NDSU faculty and researchers are eligible to apply. Two categories of awards are offered. Single investigators can apply for up to $15,000 in direct costs. Multi-investigator, multi-department proposals can apply for up to $40,000 in direct costs. These proposals must include a minimum of three people and two departments. The three individuals on a multi-investigator project must fit the eligibility criteria for this program. Eligible PIs are allowed to submit one single proposal and be a collaborator on one multi-investigator proposal. Post docs are not eligible for the single investigator category, but are eligible for the multi-investigator category and must meet the eligibility criteria.

Researchers are encouraged to consider partnering with NDSU’s Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology (CCAST). Contact Martin Ossowski, Director of CCAST, martin.ossowski@ndsu.edu, to discuss further.

Timeline:
Email complete proposal as a single PDF file to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu in the NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity by 4:00PM, October 16, 2015. Awards will be announced approximately November 1, 2015. Grant awards will be effective until June 30, 2016. Award recipients will be required to submit progress reports (and a financial update) including a final report within 30 days of the end of the project.

Proposal Contents:
Please submit in the following order.
1. Cover page- Utilize the Cover Sheet provided with RFP
2. Executive Summary--distinct from the Project Description. Include significance of the research. One page limit.
3. Project Description--no more than 5 one-sided pages, 1” margins, single-spaced, no less than 10-point font. The following items must be addressed within the project description:
   a. Description of project aims/objectives, deliverables, and proposed activities. The aims/objectives should be compelling and feasible and combine innovative use of computational and informatics capabilities with a biological or biomedical research topic.
   b. Description of the role of each team member.
c. Description of research methods, activities, and timelines.
d. Detailed plan on how the project will be implemented and managed.
e. Detailed plan on how the project and its objectives will be evaluated, and how results will be analyzed and disseminated.

4. References cited.
5. Facilities and equipment description relevant to the proposed research. **One page or less.**
6. Identification of two potential external funding programs which could be targeted for future grant proposals to continue research based on the seed grant project. **One page or less.**
7. Biographical sketch of PI(s). **Two page limit per person.**
8. List of current and pending grant support for each PI.
9. If applicable, a description of any human subject, animal, or biosafety related research and the plan to obtain approval from the appropriate compliance office. **One page or less.**
10. Detailed budget and budget justification. Use the generic budget form found at: [http://www.ndsu.edu/research/sponsored_programs_admin/forms/](http://www.ndsu.edu/research/sponsored_programs_admin/forms/). For multi-investigator budgets, include one budget per investigator and one cumulative budget. Graduate student stipends are highly encouraged. Faculty summer salary is allowable, but is generally discouraged and is limited to 0.5 month. Unallowable costs include equipment purchases exceeding $5,000, and travel costs. **Facilities and administrative costs (F&A) are required to be included in the budget. The F&A should be considered as additional to the $15,000 or $40,000 requested.** A limit of up to twenty percent (20%) of the budget may be used for generating new experimental data. The budget justification should include a clear description, by budget category, of the funds requested for generation of new experimental data.

Since this is an internal program, a Proposal Transmittal Form with approval from NDSU Sponsored Programs Administration is NOT necessary.

**Primary Evaluation Criteria (Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed):**
1. Proposals prepared and submitted according to established guidelines and procedures, including all supporting documents.
2. Compelling and feasible research aims/objectives combining innovative use of computational and informatics capabilities with a biological or biomedical research topic.
3. Scientific and technical merits of the proposed research, including soundness of the proposed project description, identification of specific goals, project significance, measurable outcomes, and contribution to the field.
4. Soundness of the implementation, management, and evaluation plans.
5. Potential for building bioinformatics strength at NDSU.
6. Potential for submission of competitive research proposals to external sources following the award period.

**Review Process:**
Review will be conducted by an **ad hoc** peer review committee selected by the Office of Research and Creative Activity. The review committee may include faculty members from NDSU and/or outside institutions.

**Questions?** Please direct questions to Sheri Anderson, sheri.anderson@ndsu.edu, or 701-231-6573 or Kay Sizer, kay.sizer@ndsu.edu, 701-231-7035.