



UMHS-PUHSC JOINT INSTITUTE



**The University of Michigan Health System – Peking University Health Science Center
Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Purpose

The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC) Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research (JI) seeks to identify joint proposals that advance robust collaborations between the institutions that will lead to transformative science and future extramural funding. Proposals must be jointly put forth by Co-Principal Investigators who are full-time faculty at U-M Medical School (UMMS) and PUHSC.

Overview

The UMHS-PUHSC Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research (<http://www.puuma.org/>) was officially launched in October 2010 with a combined commitment of \$14M for joint research projects on diseases that are important to the U.S. and China. In October 2015, the Memorandum of Understanding between UMHS and PUHSC was renewed for another five years. In the initial phase, research programs focused on pulmonary, cardiovascular, liver, and renal diseases. While these remain the major focus of the JI, the Executive Board is also extending the opportunity to become a part of the JI to scientists from other disciplines who seek to establish robust collaborations between the institutions that will lead to transformative science and future extramural funding. Proposals on diseases that have a larger impact on populations in China and the U.S. will be prioritized. The JI is positioned to leverage the unique strengths of each university and facilitate translational research that is difficult for either UMHS or PUHSC is able to pursue alone.

Awards

Most (~ 80%) of the available funding will be prioritized to the current focus areas above and co-investigators with an established track record of collaboration between the two institutions. The remaining available funding will be targeted for proposals that are in additional disciplines or early in the development of their partnerships. Funding for all awards originate equally from UMHS and PUHSC with the intent that the respective amounts will be spent within the originating country.

- Discovery Awards: Up to \$100,000/year (\$50,000/year from PUHSC, \$50,000/year from UMHS) for two years are available. The purpose of the Discovery Awards is to promote collaborations that have yet to be fully established.
- Pilot Awards: Up to \$300,000/year (\$150,000/year from PUHSC, \$150,000 /year from UMHS) for two years are available.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty at UMMS or PUHSC are eligible to serve as Co-Principal Investigators.

Submission Due Date & Review Timeline

- Announcement of RFP
 - Date March 15, 2017
- Due Date for Letters of Intent (LOI)
 - Date April 10, 2017
- LOI Applicants Notified whether to Complete a Full Application
 - Date April 14, 2017
- Due Date for Proposal Submission
 - Date May 19, 2017
- Notice of Award
 - Date September 5, 2017

Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by to yanhuang@umich.edu and sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn. LOI Applicants will be notified whether to complete a full application

The letter of intent must include:

- I. Project title
- II. Name of the Principal Investigators (PIs), their departments and contact information
- III. Desired Award Category (i.e. Discovery, Pilot)
- IV. 5 keywords
- V. An abstract (300 words or less) that describes in separate subheadings the brief background, specific aims, and expected outcomes
- VI. NIH style biographical sketch of the PIs

Submission Process

Please submit all documents as a single PDF file, including a request for notice of receipt to: yanhuang@umich.edu and sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn

Required Elements of Full Proposal

- I. Completed and Signed Face Page:
 - a. Title of the project
 - b. Name, signatures of PIs and Department Chairs, and contact information of PIs at UMHS and PUHSC
 - c. Requested funding and established cost-sharing for each participant and for total project broken out by project year
- II. Project Description (Discovery Award: limit to 5 pages, Pilot Award: limit to 10 pages, Interventional Trials Award: limit to 10 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font. Additional background information shall be submitted as appendices)
 - a. Executive summary
 - b. Objectives (no more than 4)
 - c. Background: Existing status quo/state-of-the-art and challenges
 - d. Research Strategy and Methodology:
 - i. Experimental design/rationale
 - ii. Description of major tasks and respective task leaders
 - iii. Proposed timeline for major tasks and milestones
 - iv. Future directions and research plans for the next three years

v. Opportunity for subsequent funding (beyond the scope of the seed project)

- III. Plan for Protection of Human Subjects
- IV. NIH Biosketches of Key Personnel (maximum four pages per individual)
- V. Plans (if any) for interchange of personnel between institutions (include: name of mentors and trainees, training time frame, training objectives/curriculums/activities, description of the trainees' major role in the project)
- VI. Identification of Project-relevant Background Intellectual Property (if applicable)
- VII. Letters of support from Department or Divisional Chair and from one of the co-leads for those submitting in one of the focus areas (Cardiovascular, Pulmonary, GI/Hepatology, Renal).
- VIII. Budget shall include:
- Line item budget:
- a. Personnel (up to 30% of total budget):
 - i. name/role on project
 - ii. percent effort
 - iii. base salary/benefits
 - b. Consultants (per diem only)
 - c. Supplies/materials
 - d. Participant fees/costs (i.e., expenses per participant including travel, tests, payment for time)
 - e. Travel

Budget justification:

For each category above briefly describe and provide justification for each item. Costs must be broken out for both UMHS and PUHSC participants. Lodging and other living expenses are to be borne by the home institutions of the visiting researchers.

Evaluation of Project Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by two peer reviewers familiar with the content areas and funding environment in the U.S. and China respectively, on the following modified NIH criteria in making the selection of successful proposals:

- Impact and significance of the work
- The potential leveraging of this work into extramural funding
- Qualifications of PIs/Mentors: appropriate to work proposed
- Appropriateness of research design and methodology
- Resources available to do the work

In addition, a major emphasis will be placed on the potential for meaningful collaboration that will be demonstrated by ongoing exchange, trust building, insights into the cultural differences in how research is executed, a willingness to work within the JI structure, and commitment to engaging in the collective work of the JI including an interest in the projects of others.

The JI Executive Committee (EC) will consolidate the review comments, review the proposals based on the additional criteria (below), and make recommendations to the JI Executive Board for approval.

Evaluation criteria:

- Synergy between UMHS and PUHSC
- Relevance to the objective of the collaboration
- Potential for external funding
- Cost-effectiveness

Priorities

Proposals must include Co-Principal Investigators from both UMHS and PUHSC. The proposers should clearly indicate: 1) how the proposed study will lead to the desired impacts and 2) how the successful conduct of the seed project will enhance the prospect for securing third party funding. Moreover, preferences will be given to proposals that are able to identify specific external research programs for future funding through Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

Cost-sharing derived from sources outside the JI demonstrates the interest of third parties in the field and is strongly recommended. Although not an absolute requirement, this is particularly encouraged for co-PI's outside of the Department of Internal Medicine in light of its major contribution to the funding that is available. The cost-sharing would be used to offset some of the funding that is coming from the U-M. The source, amount, and nature of such cost-sharing must be identified in writing and supported with a letter of commitment as part of the application.

Release of Funds

The funding allocation for each project will be informed by the estimated budgets that are reviewed within the context of the submitted outlines and suggested modifications to be included in the full proposal. Projects should have milestones and/or deliverables after year-one and year-two for progress and quality reviews. The Awards are two-year awards; however, the second year grant shall be released based on year-one progress reports. Upon project completion, any residual funds will be returned to the JI account.

Faculty salary will be considered only for *UMMS faculty who are integrally involved in the research aspects of the proposal*. Salaries for other non-faculty personnel may be included.

Project Review

Funded projects will be reviewed at year-one and year-two of the funding period. The reviews will include assessments of scientific progress, progress toward long-term goals, and progress toward obtaining external funds.

Please direct any questions to:

Joseph C. Kolars, M.D.

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