



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI
THE CENTER OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE IN NATURAL PRODUCTS
NEUROSCIENCE

COBRE PHASE III Transitional Center
Natural Products Neuroscience
Call for Pilot Project Program Proposals

Letter of Intent Due: September 14, 2018

Invited Proposals (R01 format) Due: November 12, 2018

A-1 type Revised Proposal Due: January 11, 2019

The University of Mississippi Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in
Natural Products Neuroscience (COBRE-NPN)

[\(http://pharmacy.olemiss.edu/cobre/\)](http://pharmacy.olemiss.edu/cobre/)

Summary: The Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Natural Products Neuroscience (COBRE-NPN) will fund up to five Pilot Program Projects of \$50,000 / year / project. The maximum duration of support will be 2 years. Applications must address one of the three areas of research (basic science, translational or entrepreneurial development) and the project scope must be within the COBRE-NPN thematic research focus area - understanding the neuropharmacologic effects of natural products.

Eligibility: All University of Mississippi faculty members are eligible to participate in the Pilot Project Program. Preference will be given to junior investigators who are in the early stages of their career. Those who have not yet received a major program grant (e.g. an R01) award are also encouraged to apply for the PPP. Past graduates from the COBRE-NPN program, who do not serve as mentors, may also compete for the projects but will have to present a compelling rationale to be considered for funding.

Project areas that fall within the scientific focus of the CORE-NPN include but are not limited to:

- Basic science research: biological evaluation of natural products as agents possessing neuropharmacologic effects.
- Translational science research: Translating basic science discoveries from animal models to human subjects.
- Commercialization (Entrepreneurial development): The advancement of research discoveries from the bench to the commercial sector.

Criteria for evaluation of COBRE application:

- Initial evaluation will be done based on the cover page and specific aims submitted by all applicants and will be done by the PPP Review Committee and the EAC. The rubric for narrowing the pool is based primarily on:
 - Relevance to the COBRE-NPN research focus
 - Clarity of specific aims and scientific merit
 - Junior Investigator status
 - Proposed COBRE-NPN core utilization
 - Strategic vision for leveraging PPP results into future R-type NIH funding
- A maximum of 8 applicants will be selected. These applicants will be invited to submit a full-proposal, in R01-format, and will then participate in a Shark-Tank type meeting wherein a ten-minute presentation of the proposal is given to the PPP Review Committee who in turn provide the applicant feedback and guidance.
- Applicants will then submit a revised (A1-like) proposal to be forwarded to the EAC for final evaluation.
- The EAC will select up to five finalists pending NIGMS approval.
- Proposals will be prioritized for funding based on scientific merit, thematic research focus, career-stage, collaboration-teams, and the perceived likelihood of publications and competitive grant applications generated from work.

General Terms and Conditions of CORE-NPN COBRE Research Pilot Project Program:

1. COBRE funds will not be released until NIGMS approves the project.
2. PI or Co-I salary will not be supported. Funds may be used to support purchase of materials and supplies and for laboratory personnel salaries.
3. At least 30% of the funds should be used for services obtained through one or both Cores (Chemistry and DMPK and/or Neuropharmacology Core)
4. Pilot Project Investigators will be required to deliver a presentation every quarter on their progress.
5. The investigator will be required to submit at least one abstract for presentation at a national research meeting and to submit one manuscript for peer-reviewed publication acknowledging COBRE and core support, by the end of year 1 of funding.
6. Recipients will be required to submit an investigator-initiated NIH R01 grant application by the end of the second year of COBRE support. If investigator obtains external support, COBRE support will be discontinued if the COBRE supported project is significantly similar to the newly funded project.
7. Investigators will be expected to present their research findings to the EAC during their annual review.
8. The younger scientists, pre-R01 awardee, and assistant professors will be required to identify at least one senior faculty member to serve as their mentor.
 - a. The more senior scientists at the associate or full professor rank will have the option of selecting a senior mentor to facilitate the development of their project.
9. Recipients will present their work at the Annual Core Research Day.

NOTE: Prospective applicants with questions about eligibility, program details, application process, or requirements are encouraged to contact Dr. Kristie Willett (662-915-6691); kwillett@olemiss.edu).

Step 1: Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

- **Due at 5 p.m. (CST), September 14, 2018 to ORSP InfoReady site [LINK here](#)**
- **The LOI includes a Cover Page (attached) and 1 page Specific Aims that clearly indicate how the proposed research addresses both the objectives of the COBRE-NPN but also the overall strategic plan of the agency to which they will eventually target for an R-type award.**

Step 2: Upon invitation, prepare and submit to the PPP Review Committee a R01-style proposal.

- **Due at 5 p.m. (CST), November 12, 2018 ORSP InfoReady site.**
- Applicants will have access to application through the COBRE-NPN website.
- The page limits will follow the NIH R01 format.
- The application will include:
 - Specific Aims page
 - Research Strategy:
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Approach including scientific rigor
 - Timeline
 - Required components that will not count toward page limit
 - Biographical sketches
 - Other support information of the applicant and key personnel
 - References
 - Letters of Support
 - Protections of Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals
 - Information on Biohazards or Select Agents
 - Resource Sharing Plan
 - Authentication of Key Biological/Chemical Resources.

Step 3: Shark Tank style presentation

Step 3: Submit an A-1 type Revised Proposal

- **Due at 5 p.m. (CST), January 11, 2019; ORSP InfoReady site.**
- Include one page Introduction (a.k.a. Response to review).



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COBRE CORE-NPN
Call of 2019 Phase III Pilot Project Program Proposals
Cover Page

Applicant _____

Department _____

Title of Proposed Research _____

Project Narrative/ Relevance (2 sentences)

Relevance to CORE-NPN theme (2 sentences)

Indicate CORE-NPN Cores and services that will be utilized

Neuropharmacology

In vitro assays

In vivo rodent assays

In vivo zebrafish assays

Chemistry/ DMPK

Synthesis and chemical characterization

DMPK and formulation

Potential Mentor _____