University of Maryland College Park
Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) announces dissertation project funding

8/30/2016

Description

The Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) is a large center grant (P50) awarded by FDA/NIH to the University of Maryland College Park. Additional collaborators are at Battelle and the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

The Center seeks to develop improved models (broadly defined) to inform tobacco product regulatory strategies. This work is designed to inform US Food and Drug Administration efforts to develop evidence-based regulations for tobacco products (including how these products are formulated, used, marketed, etc.) as well as related public education efforts. The focus is on standard, new (emerging) and manipulated products.

The TCORS award provides money that we can award to pre-doctoral students with innovative research ideas to expand or deepen the reach of our existing TCORS center. Awards will be used to perform research leading to the award of a doctoral degree. The current FDA Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) research interest areas are listed at: http://prevention.nih.gov/tobacco/research.aspx; projects are not, however, limited to these specific areas so long as there is a clear connection to informing FDA regulatory and educational decisions on tobacco.

Some topics of current high interest include the diversity of tobacco products, reducing addiction, adverse health consequences of tobacco use, measuring and reducing toxicity of tobacco products, communications, marketing of tobacco products, and economics and policy. Projects involving tobacco use cessation or reducing nicotine levels to zero are explicitly disallowed by the US Congress.

1. The award level for this program is up to $5,000 in total costs. Salary for Principal Investigator and research staff may be requested as part of the budget.
2. The number of grants awarded is determined by funding availability.
3. The funding period is one year. Semiannual and final progress reports are required.
4. Standard NIH human and animal research approvals apply.
5. The UMD TCORS principle investigator will verify eligibility for funding (in terms of scope) before any grant is awarded (requires approval of FDA).

The funds for these projects come from a Tobacco Center for Regulatory Science (TCORS) grant awarded by NIH using funds from the FDA. Because of this arrangement we can only fund projects that will inform the FDA’s regulation of tobacco products and their marketing, including policy development and public education. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the PI,
Pamela I. Clark, PhD, at clarkp@umd.edu about their ideas to ensure that they are relevant to FDA’s regulatory priorities. Prior to beginning any work, Dr. Clark will send the project description to FDA for official scope clearance.

**Due Date**

All materials must be received (in a single .pdf attachment) by email by January 3, 2017 at 5 pm (ET). Please email to clarkp@umd.edu and akidanu@umd.edu. Funding decisions are planned to be made no later than Monday, January 30, 2017.

**Eligibility**

Students must have approval from their committees to apply. That means that a proposal must have already been approved by an officially designated dissertation proposal defense committee.

**Designation of Research Mentor**

All award applications require the designation of a faculty research mentor. This mentor should be an individual who has primary responsibility for overseeing the research career development of the applicant—usually assigned through the applicant's department. Reviewers will be instructed to ensure active engagement of the mentor, who must be specifically named.

**Criteria for Review and Evaluation of Applications**

Applications that are complete and meet eligibility requirements will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit in accordance with typical NIH review criteria: 1. Significance, 2. Approach, 3. Innovation, 4. Investigator, 5. Environment. Each of these criteria will be addressed and considered in assigning the overall application score.

**Instructions**

Please write your proposal following the instructions listed below:

**Proposal Length**: Maximum 6 pages, including figures and tables, but excluding cover pages, abstract, table of contents, human subjects considerations and literature cited.

**Format Requirements**: Arial font; 11 pt; minimum 0.5 inch for all margins; no appendices; include page numbers and table of contents.

Please create one single PDF file including all of the following information:

**Project Title**
**Amount Requested – Total Cost**

**P.I. Name**
Title
Department/Affiliation
Email address
Address
Phone
Co-Investigator Names (max five)
Titles
Department/Affiliation
Email address
Address
Phone

Research Mentor(s)
Titles
Department/Affiliation
Email address
Address
Phone

Grant Administrator (Indicate a post-award financial analyst in your department who will help you manage this grant and be our main contact if you are awarded):
Title
Mailing Address:
Email
Address
Phone

Human Subjects. Indicate if human subjects will be involved or not. Supply the following:
IRB date of approval
IRB approval number
Specify if pending

Animal Subjects. Indicate if animal subjects will be used or not. Supply the following:
IACUC date of approval
IACUC approval number
Specify if pending

Abstract (one paragraph, maximum 300 words) – not included in 6 page limit

Proposal (maximum 6 pages)
Aims
Background and Significance
Preliminary studies
Experimental Design and Methods (include time-table)

Explain how this pilot project will contribute to the development of tobacco regulatory science (max 500 characters, not included in 6 page limit).

Human Subjects: describe human subject data that will be used in your research, and describe the methods that will be used to protect subjects and/or information (Use NIH format)

Literature cited (not included in the page limit)
**Budget** ($5,000 maximum direct costs per proposal) Use the NIH PHS 398 form "Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period" ([http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.doc](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.doc)) to prepare your budget. Fully justify all requests. Normally PI partial salary support should not exceed 20%.

**Budget Justification**: Fully justify all costs, including roles of all investigators on the project.

**NIH Bio-sketch of Principal Investigator(s) and Co-Investigator(s) and Faculty Mentor(s)** (4 page maximum each): Use Form "PHS 398/2590" from the NIH grant applications ([http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc)) with other support pages. Include active and pending proposals. Include percent effort, total direct costs (current year) and potential overlap with the current proposal.