GENOMICS TRAINING SUPPORT GRANTS

Release Date: November 18, 2004

Application Receipt Dates: January 15, 2005

PURPOSE

The purpose of the UNC Office of the President Genomics Training Support Grants is to enable promising new genome researchers to establish or enhance multidisciplinary training programs intended to provide broad training for individuals who wish to conduct research at the interface of (1) biological disciplines and non-biological scientific disciplines relevant to genomic sciences (e.g., physical, chemical, mathematical, computational biology, bioinformatics, computer and/or engineering sciences) and (2) biological disciplines relevant to environmental health sciences, such as molecular biology, molecular toxicology, medicinal plants, biotechnology, and environmental epidemiology.

The goal of this program is to encourage institutions with academically outstanding departments and faculty in molecular biology and one or more of the non-biological scientific disciplines relevant to genomic sciences to consider enhancing training programs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Only tenured and tenure track faculty members at UNC institutions can initiate a program request that can be used for support of training activities. Equipment purchases will not be supported by this grant program. Applicants should be engaged in or have a programmatic focus on building new programs to enhance training as it relates to genomics and related disciplines. Proposals emphasizing innovative partnerships that leverage interinstitutional and extramural resources will be considered the most competitive.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Examples of training applications provided below are not intended to limit the types of grant requests, but should act as guides to the kinds of research and training areas that currently need attention.

Large-Scale DNA Sequencing
Strategies that reduce the cost, increase the through-put, and improve the accuracy of large-scale sequencing projects; application of cost-efficient sequencing technologies to complex genome; and instrumentation development from technical feasibility through prototype development and insertion into production.
Genome Sequence Variation
Detection of DNA sequence variants of genomes; studies relating the distribution of variation to population history in order to determine the density of SNPS or other markers needed for gene mapping; and analytical tools for studying sequence variations and relating them to phenotypes.

Functional Genomics
Genome-scale studies relating to: gene discovery and full-length cDNA synthesis; gene expression analysis, protein-ligand interactions and protein modifications; functional analyses of non-coding sequences; and generation of mutations.

Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
New or improved tools for obtaining, representing, analyzing and archiving data and improving databases, in the areas of DNA sequence, genetic variation and homology, and functional genomics.

AWARD CHARACTERISTICS

Funding Period: The total number of years for these awards cannot exceed three. Awards will begin in January 2005.

Funds Available: The total funding available over the three-year term is $2,500,000. Annual budgets for new proposals should not to exceed $150,000 per year. Annual budgets for renewal proposals should not exceed $100,000 per year. Total budgeted amounts should be provided in $25,000 increments.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

The budget for this program will not reimburse indirect costs. These funds can be used for activities of professional personnel, supplies, travel and other costs that are deemed essential for the development of innovative training programs. Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment or to fund a faculty member’s academic year salary. Salaries for faculty (summer only) and other professional personnel must be commensurate with the level of training and experience of similar individuals in the host institution.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The grant application form PHS 398 “NIH modular grants” is to be used in applying for these UNC Office of the President grants. These forms are available at most institutional offices of sponsored research and may be obtained from the Division of Extramural Outreach and Information Resource from the NIH web site: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm. The scientific and technical narratives shall not exceed five pages.

Applicants for renewal funding must complete an application for the 2005 “cycle” and include progress to date on the project from 2002.
Proposal must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorizing official for the applicant’s institution. An original and five complete copies of the proposal must be received at the address below by 5:00 p.m. January 15, 2005 in order to be considered. Proposals will not be accepted by fax.

The UNC Office of the President will not accept any application in response to this program announcement that is essentially the same as one currently pending review at another agency, but this project may serve as a prototype or initial phase to support an existing or planned proposal. Proposals that provide the maximum leverage of extramural resources and programs will be the most competitive.

INQUIRIES

Written and telephone inquiries concerning this program announcement are encouraged, especially during the planning phase of the application. Contact the Vice President for Research or the Contracts and Grants Manager for additional information:

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