



Great Lakes Regional Center of Excellence
for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research

RFP for Developmental Projects Proposals

Revised March 11, 2008 (original RFP released on December 21, 2007)

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: April 15, 2008 (*original deadline on March 14, 2008*)

The Great Lakes Regional Center of Excellence (GLRCE) for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases invites investigators from within Region V to submit proposals to be considered as potential Developmental Projects in the RCE Competitive Renewal Application. The RFA for the RCE Competitive Renewal has been issued by NIAID, and can be accessed at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-08-002.html>.

Purpose of this RFP is to provide the **GLRCE Executive Board** with a rich repertoire of themes, translational projects and expertise in emerging infections and biodefense from within our region to choose from for inclusion in the GLRCE's application to the National RFA for RCE Competitive Renewal. The GLRCE Developmental Projects Program will support innovative research that has a high likelihood of yielding information leading to the development of new vaccines, therapeutics and/or diagnostics against these agents. Furthermore, results gained from the Developmental Projects Program are intended to support the acquisition of funding from traditional federal mechanisms (NIH R01, etc). Therefore, only a small amount of preliminary data is required for Developmental Projects thereby fostering the development of novel approaches towards the study of the mechanisms of infectious disease intervention and/or immunity to disease.

Proposals must focus on Category A, B or C agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) pathogens. Listings of Categories A, B and C pathogens can be found at <http://www.rcebiodefense.org/glrc/docs/Cat.pdf> and the EID pathogens are listed at <http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/research/topics/emerging/list.htm>. The 2007 NIAID Strategic Plan for Biodefense Research describes interest in fundamental research and the development of broadly applicable drugs and diagnostics for select agents. Please consult the listed NIAID document for details <http://www.rcebiodefense.org/glrc/docs/biosp2007.pdf> or visit the GLRCE website (www.glrc.org) for updated information. Where appropriate, submission of multidisciplinary proposals is strongly encouraged; the beneficiary relationship of participating technologies as well as the interactions of scientists in different fields and institutions must be made transparent.

Basic science is very attractive to the GLRCE Executive Board. Research that aims directly at vaccines, therapeutics, or diagnostics will be given higher consideration, unless the discovery of fundamental knowledge is an absolute prerequisite for subsequent translational research. Collaborative projects across disciplines in both translational and basic science will also get high consideration.

Current topics of interest to the GLRCE include, but are not limited to:

- Pathogen biology, including the identification and characterization of new virulence factors
- Biology of microbial toxins
- Host immune responses and defense mechanisms

- Microbial immune evasion strategies and resistance mechanisms to therapeutics
- Animal models of infection and immunity
- Target identification for vaccines and therapeutics
- Novel adjuvants and medical diagnostics
- Vaccine development
- Discovery of therapeutics for infectious diseases

The proposal **must** be prepared utilizing the latest PHS 398 **non-modular** application forms, including the detailed budgetary Forms 4 and 5. Your proposal must be institutionally endorsed and should include the following information:

- Up to 5 pages of text including specific aims, background and significance, preliminary data, and research plan (sections a-d of PHS 398 forms). Copies of manuscripts in press may be included as appendices and will not count against the page limit.
- Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, Literature Cited and Consultants must be included but do not count against the page total. Projects that include research involving human subjects must also include a NIAID Human Subject Research Concept Sheet. To obtain a copy of the Concept Sheet, please contact Navneet Bhasin, nbhasin@bsd.uchicago.edu;
- Letters of support for those proposals involving collaborations with other GLRCE scientists, GLRCE cores or components, members of other Centers or members of industry (as applicable).
- Current NIH Biosketch and Other Support for the Principal Investigator;
- The Principal Investigator must commit at least 10% effort.

PHS 398 forms may be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

This solicitation will result in the recommendation of up to 6 Developmental Project applications to the NIAID for funding, to begin on or about March 1, 2009. Awards are granted for one or two years, with a range of \$100,000 to \$125,000 direct costs per year. Funding for the Development Projects Program is contingent on competitive renewal of the GLRCE by the NIAID. Proposals are only considered from investigators with institutional affiliation to the GLRCE. A listing of participating institutions is accessible through the GLRCE website. Investigators from other institutions that are not yet members of the GLRCE consortium should contact the GLRCE Administrative Core below for membership application. All proposals will be peer reviewed by the **GLRCE Executive Board**. Referee comments as well as Board recommendations for participation in the GLRCE Renewal Application will be transmitted to each Principal Investigator.

Proposals should be postmarked by **Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 5:00pm** and as an electronic submission (single Microsoft Word file) to:

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