



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

RFP for Developmental Projects Pre-Proposals
December 21, 2007

Deadline for Receipt of Pre-Proposals: 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>. The deadline for receipt of applications against this RFA is June 3, 2008.

Purpose of this RFP is to provide the **GLRCE Executive Board** and **Scientific Advisory 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/glrcce/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/glrcce/docs/biosp2007.pdf> or visit the GLRCE website (www.glrcce.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 and Scientific Advisory Boards. 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. Projects that can utilize the GLRCE's regional biocontainment laboratory (RBL) will also be considered.

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

Proposals must include the following:

- Pre-proposals are encouraged to use PHS398 face page format, however pre-proposals do not require institutional endorsement.
- An abstract of up to 250 words defines the research problem and describes the overall goals of the Research Project or Core. The abstract should describe the relationship of individual programs within a Research Project, their collaborative gains, their relevance to the NIAID biodefense program, and define the unique research opportunity and innovative features of the proposal.
- Up to 5 pages of text and figures including (a) specific aims, (b) brief definition of background and significance (c) a skeletal outline of the Developmental Project
- Current NIH Biosketch and Other Support for the Principal Investigator
- 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).
- Outline of a budget with estimated annual direct and indirect costs as well as budgetary costs over the duration of the entire project (up to two years).
- Pre-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.
- Receipt of Pre-Proposals will be acknowledged by the GLRCE. All Pre-Proposals will be peer reviewed by the **GLRCE Executive Board** and **Scientific Advisory Board**. Referee comments as well as Board recommendations for participation in the GLRCE Renewal Application will be transmitted to each Principal Investigator. The GLRCE Administrative Core will then request investigators to submit fully developed proposals for inclusion into the GLRCE Renewal Application.

Pre-Proposals should be submitted by **Friday, March 14, 2008** via FedEx or as electronic submission (single PDF file) to:

Navneet Bhasin, Ph.D.
Associate Director, GLRCE
Department of Microbiology
The University of Chicago
920 East 58th Street, CLSC 1110
Chicago, IL 60637
Tel. (773) 834-9706; Fax (773) 834-8150
E-mail: nbhasin@bsd.uchicago.edu

Inquiries about GLRCE Pre-Proposals should be submitted to:

Olaf Schneewind, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, GLRCE
Louis Block Professor and Chairman
Department of Microbiology
The University of Chicago
920 East 58th Street, CLSC 607b
Chicago, IL 60637
Tel. (773) 834-9060
E-mail oschnee@bsd.uchicago.edu