Pilot Grant Funding for Research in Preterm Birth

The March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis ("The Center") announces a Transdisciplinary Developmental Funding Program for investigators with a faculty appointment of Instructor and above to support early-stage, innovative research in preterm birth at Washington University. The Center was established in November 2014 to study multiple aspects of preterm birth, including three thematic areas: Cervical Remodeling during Pregnancy, Electrical Maturation of Uterine Smooth Muscle, and The Role of Circadian Rhythms in Preterm Births. The Center fosters discoveries in other novel areas of preterm birth research through this pilot grant-funding program. Researchers in any discipline within the Washington University community are encouraged to explore high-risk ideas related to preterm birth that will generate preliminary data for subsequent extramural applications to the NIH or to non-governmental foundations.

Pilot grant funding will be for one year at $25,000 with matching funds of $25,000 expected from the Department Chair sponsoring the faculty member. A second year of support will be based on a progress report, yielding a potential for $100,000/grant.

The electronic application must use forms from NIH SF424 Application Guide, available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm. Submissions will be reviewed for the hypothesis tested, the science and innovation of the proposal, the likelihood for translational research, and the potential for extra-mural funding.

1. Application Face Sheet
2. Budget Page and Justification (Funding cannot be used to support faculty salary.)
3. NIH-formatted biosketch (09-06 version) and Other Support page
4. The Research Plan (not to exceed four pages excluding Appendices)
   a. Specific Aims
   b. Significance to Preterm Birth Research
   c. Innovation
   d. Approach
   e. Potential for progression to translational studies
   f. Plans for subsequent application for extramural funding
   g. Appendices
      i. References (maximum 1 page)
      ii. Pertinent publications (maximum 3)
      iii. A letter from the Department Chair committing to matching funds
      iv. Letter of support from consultants, collaborators, or faculty advisors
5. Awardees will submit a progress report 10 months after initiation of grant funding. The second year of support will depend upon progress made.
6. Each awardee will present at the yearly meeting of The Center’s internal and external advisory committees and at The Center’s annual retreat.

Copies of approved compliance forms pertinent to the project are required before awards are released to successful applicants.

Please submit to chubizj@wudosis.wustl.edu by 5 pm January 30, 2015. Awards will be announced by February 28, 2015, with funding to begin March 15, 2015. Questions: nelsondm@wudosis.wustl.edu or hackett@kids.wustl.edu