CALL FOR PRE-PROPOSALS – NIH MBRS SCORE PROGRAM

Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Advancement Awards (SC1), Pilot Project Awards (SC2), or Continuance Awards (SC3)

This call does not apply to SCORE-funded investigators who received priority scores < 40 on prior submissions. Please contact Uschi Simonis (uschi@sfsu.edu) if you are in this category.

Pre-proposal submission deadline:	**October 2, 2017, 9 am**
Single PDF document by email to:	**Michael Scott (mjscott @sfsu.edu) and Uschi Simonis (uschi@sfsu.edu)**
NIH SCORE proposal submission date:	**January 25, 2018**

SCORE is a developmental program that is designed to increase the research competitiveness of faculty and research base of institutions with a historical mission and/or demonstrated track record of training and graduating students from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research. For more information on the program and the individual mechanisms (SC1, SC2, SC3) see: http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/SCORE/Pages/default.aspx

I. DEADLINES

The next deadline for submitting SCORE (SC1, SC2, SC3) proposals is **Jan 25, 2018**. If you plan to apply for SCORE funding, you must submit a pre-proposal as the NIH has limited the number of individual SCORE applications/awards that an institution can hold to a combined maximum of 20 total applications and awards at any time. Therefore, institutions are asked to preselect proposals to enhance the overall quality of their SCORE program. Failure to do so may jeopardize future SCORE funding eligibility. Please send your pre-proposal in a single PDF file by email to: **Michael J. Scott** (mjscott@sfsu.edu) and **Uschi Simonis (uschi@sfsu.edu)] by October 2nd at 9 am** for evaluation. If you have questions regarding the SCORE award mechanism or the pre-proposals, please contact uschi@sfsu.edu; or ext. 81656; or TH 111A.

II. APPLICATION MATERIALS

Please include the following information – see item (V) below for details.

(1) Specific Aims page (limited to one page)
(2) Information on your ability to successfully compete for SCORE funding and your commitment to training students nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research (limited to one page)
(3) Biosketch – NIH format required (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)

III. SELECTION AND REVIEW PROCESS

The SCORE Executive Committee will review, rank, and evaluate the pre-proposals based on scientific merit, achieving the overall SCORE program goals, and the biosketch. The top ranked pre-proposal writers have a very good chance to submit a proposal. After the committee has reached its decision, I will notify you on the outcome. If you are selected, you are expected to submit a SCORE proposal by the **Jan 25, 2018** deadline.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

You **are not eligible to apply** for SCORE (SC1, SC2, or SC3) funding, if you

- have a K award or any other career development award.
- are receiving developmental support of ≥ $75,000/year from major institutional awards, such as RCMI, INBRE, COBRE, RIMI and other Center or Program Project grants.
- are receiving equal or less than $75,000/year of support from other federal grants; in this case you may only apply for or receive SC3 awards.
- have had a track record of significant non-SCORE support (more than one funding cycle of NIH, NSF or other Federal or non-Federal support, including NSF RUI grants with more than $75,000 in annual support).
- have current R01 or equivalent NIH or NSF support, or other significant Federal support or foundation grants.
- are retired or are emeritus, endowed or distinguished professor.
- are a productive PI or co-investigator (co-PI) of major program projects (e.g. P01, P20, U54, G12, RCMI, INBRE, COBRE, NSF etc…) or other grants.

- have received grants based on your distinguished research accomplishments or special research recognition awards (e.g., PECASE awardees).
- have secured non-SCORE research funding as PI or <u>co-PI</u> (from NSF or other agencies) – in this case you have already achieved the SCORE program goal and are ineligible to apply.
- receive research support (<u>PI or collaborator</u>) from any external source – in this case you can only apply for an SC3 award provided that the funding amount is less than $75,000/yr. In a case like this the PI must provide specific information under "other support" on his/her role on the project, time devoted to it and amount received.

V. DETAILS ON THE APPLICATION MATERIALS

(1) <u>First page</u>: Specific Aims Page – is limited to one page and is essentially the first page of your proposal.

Helpful information is provided at the following websites:

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/apply-grant	(apply for a grant)
https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/draft-specific-aims	(draft specific aims)
https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications	(sample applications)

More information on writing the Specific Aims page is given at the end of this document and in the template that is adapted from Rice University. For more information on writing the Specific Aims page, see also http://research.sfsu.edu/sites/sites7.sfsu.edu.orsp/files/assets/workshop_matls/specificaimspres04022009.pdf

(2) <u>Second page</u>: Discuss why your proposal is likely to be funded by NIH and how it meets the following criteria:

A. Biomedical relevance. Describe the biomedical relevance of your research, identify the SRG (Scientific Review Group) and Institute/Center (https://public.era.nih.gov/pubroster/) that your proposal will go to and discuss why this SRG is likely to review your proposal (for more information see also: http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/grant/strategy/pages/5ensure.aspx). Ensure that the review committee will be able to assess the biomedical relevance of your research and its funding likelihood.

B. PI impact in maintaining SCORE eligibility. Describe your efforts to increase the number of students from underrepresented (UR) groups in biomedical science, the number of UR research students who graduate with science degrees and who pursue and complete Ph.D. degrees, and your efforts in recruiting and retaining underrepresented faculty.

C. Feasibility of Funding. Describe why you selected the particular finding mechanism – SC1, SC2, or SC3. If applicable, include previous priority scores and summary of reviews.

D. Research Mentor. List a research mentor who is willing to read your proposal and provide feedback and guidance. This can be an on- or off-campus scientist. For the SC2 mechanism, the Mentor is mandatory and should be recognized as an accomplished investigator in the proposed research area and have a track record of success in training research scientists and of independent research support.

(3) <u>Next pages: Biosketch</u>

Follow the NIH guidelines and include the following sections:
- A.   Personal Statement
- B.   Positions and Honors
- C.   Contribution to Science
- D.   Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

For template and sample biosketch, see: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFIC AIMS PAGE

Elements of Specific Aims page (adapted from QUICK GUIDE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/extra/extdocs/gntapp.pdf):
- Give the long-term & short term research goals & hypothesis to be tested; begin with something like: This application will test stated hypothesis; create novel design; solve specific problem; challenge existing paradigm or clinical practice; address critical barrier to progress in the field; fill profound knowledge gap; develop new technology…)
- Describe the Significance of the proposed research
- Describe the Innovation of the proposed research
- Give the Specific Aims (typically 3) with methods section and expected outcomes
- Describe the overall impact on the field, public health, and on your development

Title
The title should create a good first impression, inform the reviewer of the proposed research topic, and engage the reviewer's interest.
> **Note:** NIH titles are limited to 81 characters (including spaces).

1st Paragraph
- Introduce the project.
  - Relate the project to the agency's mission.
- Educate the reviewer.
  - Summarize the important knowledge. If a public health topic, state the ***epidemiology of the problem*** here
- Identify the gap in the knowledge or state the critical need.
- Identify the problem created by the gap or need.

2nd Paragraph
- Describe your long-term research or career goal(s).
  - Ensure that your long-term career goal aligns with the agency's mission.
- State your overall project goal.
  - Ensure that the overall project goal addresses an identified gap in knowledge and represents a step toward achieving your long-range career goal.
- Present your central hypothesis (or, alternatively, a statement of need).
  - Be sure that you present a true hypothesis – one that can be objectively tested to determine its validity – ***rather than a predetermined conclusion***.
- Explain your rationale for pursuing the project.
  - Indicate what it will be possible to accomplish when your research is complete.
- Describe your qualifications and research environment.
  - How you are better prepared than other, equally qualified researchers.
  - Identify special training, expertise, experience, and, most importantly, relevant preliminary data.
  - Identify access to human and animal subject pools; to unique equipment and instrumentation; and to collaborations and partnerships. Be specific here.

3rd Paragraph
- Delineate your specific aims in a bulleted list.
  - Ensure that all specific aims correlate with your central hypothesis.
  - Ensure that all specific aims relate to and support your overall project goal and hypothesis.
  - Provide conceptual rather than descriptive specific aims.
  - Delineate a reasonable number of specific aims, presented in a logical order. Advice is no more than three.
  - "Why" aims are generally stronger than "what" aims.
  - Define a clear purpose, working hypothesis or statement of need, and expected outcome for each specific aim.
  - Make sure no specific aim is dependent on the successful outcome of another aim.

4th Paragraph
- Identify the project's innovation, e.g., a unique approach or technology.
- Delineate the project's expected outcomes.
  - validate the central hypothesis; resolve gap in knowledge; improve the field and its practices
- Summarize the project's significance
  - Provides segue to Background and Significance