

**Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Cardiovascular Health
Pilot Project Request for Proposals and Application Instructions**

UD's NIH Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Cardiovascular Health is pleased to announce a call for COBRE pilot research grants to expand and enhance the scientific goal of the center, which is to catalyze cardiovascular health research at UD. The COBRE pilot projects will provide funding for a one-year period that will allow investigators to develop more substantial external NIH support from individual or multi-investigator proposals.

Pilot Projects will be awarded for 1 year, with a budget of \$50,000 in direct costs with an estimated start date of January 1, 2024.

Pilot Project Goals: We are seeking proposals that have applications to cardiovascular health in the broadest sense. Investigators have the opportunity to study a wide range of cardiovascular related topics that may be in the form of technology development, basic, translational, clinical or community-engaged research and could occur at the level of the cell or at higher levels up to and including the community.

Timeline: Proposals should be submitted electronically to Freddie Patterson fredap@udel.edu as a single PDF document by **5pm on October 12, 2023**. Please list COBRE PILOT in the subject line of the email. Proposals selected for funding will require approval by NIH.

Format: Each proposal should include the following sections:

- NIH face page ([Face Page](#))
- NIH Page 2: ([Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel](#))
- Detailed Budget ([Form Page 4](#)) and Budget Justification ([Form Page 5/Continuation Format Page](#), as needed)
- Biographical Sketch of PI and any Key Personnel ([Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples](#))
- Research Strategy (see below)
- Success from Prior Awards: PIs who have led a project supported by COBRE, INBRE or CTR grants should include a short section (1 page maximum) outlining the progress on that prior work, including their success in leveraging that research into independent external support and explaining why further support is necessary.
- NIH Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form, if applicable (see below)
- Vertebrate animals justification and protection, if applicable (see below)
- IRB/IACUC approval or proof of submission to IRB/IACUC for approval if applicable
- A letter of Support from the PI's Department Head/Chair
- NIH New Investigator: A letter agreeing to participate, including support for the project, from a Mentor

Forms can be found here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Proposals do not need to be routed through the research office. Proposals will receive an NIH style and meritorious applications will be reviewed by the COBRE Internal and External Advisory Committees for funding.

Research Strategy should contain the specific aims of the project, significance, innovation, and approach. The page limit for these sections together is 4 pages. Investigators must provide a statistical analysis subsection in the approach. Applicants should be sure to consider the NIH emphasis on the rigor of prior research, rigor and reproducibility, and sex as a biological variable in their proposals.

IRB or IACUC approval may be pending at the time of submission but proof of IRB/IACUC submission should be included in the proposal. [Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information form](#) is required for all studies involving human subjects.

Budget: Up to \$50,000 per year (direct costs) may be requested to support graduate students or staff, supplies, travel, etc. Institutional commitment in the form of faculty release time is expected; therefore salary for the PI is discouraged as a budget item.

Eligibility and Evaluation: NIH defined New Investigators are eligible to apply and are required to have a mentor. Faculty who've received previous NIH funding may also apply. Proposals will be evaluated on scientific merit as done in NIH study sections. Evaluation will consist of evaluating the overall impact and the likelihood to be developed into a fundable full NIH proposal. When comparing proposals with similar impact scores the following preference will be given:

- Junior investigators who do not have or have not previously had prior NIH funding as PI are given priority over funded junior faculty and more senior faculty.
- Faculty with previous CTR, INBRE or COBRE funding are given lower priority than those who are new investigators.

Additional Information: For additional information contact Dave Edwards, COBRE PI at dge@udel.edu or Freddie Patterson, Program Coordinator at fredap@udel.edu.