**Call for COBRE PROJECT Proposals**

**Delaware Center for Musculoskeletal Research (DCMR)**

**Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)**

**P20GM139760, PI: Dawn M Elliott**

The Delaware Center for Musculoskeletal Research (DCMR) has received NIH funding for a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). This announcement is requesting Project Proposals for a new Project Lead **($125,000 / year for up to 3 years)**. **Proposals are due on 09/15/2022.** We will fund up to 1 new Project.

The **Delaware Center for Musculoskeletal Research (DCMR)** supports basic and preclinical research on the central theme of musculoskeletal health—from the level of the entire body to the actions of key cells and molecules—with emphasis on understanding the mechanisms by which physical and biological cues influence tissue structure and normal function and dysfunction, and identifying potential therapeutic interventions.

The **Delaware Center for Musculoskeletal Research (DCMR)** includes a **Multiscale Assessments Research Core** to maximize the success and impact of researchers by providing state-of-the-art equipment and support to apply and assess physical cues and biological signals. The Research Core supports mechanical loading and measurement, preclinical biophysical models, and the Bioimaging Center in the Delaware Biotechnology Center.

Submit **a single PDF** with the components described below. Funding is expected to start Feb 1, 2023, with funding expected for 3 years pending progress and eligibility, or until extramural funding is obtained. Prior to submission, faculty are encouraged to contact Dawn Elliott for guidance about alignment of research with DCMR focus.

**Timeline**

Proposals should be submitted electronically to Lori May (lorimay@udel.edu) as a *single PDF document* by 11:56 PM EST, September 15, 2022.

**Instructions**

The proposal format (11-point, Ariel) is similar to that for an NIH R21 proposal. Proposal should use the PHS 398 forms.

* NIH Title Page (PHS 398 Page 1)
* NIH Project Summary (PHS 398 Page 2)
* NIH Key Personnel (PHS 398 Page 3)
* Budget (PHS 398 Page 4) and Budget Justification
* Biographical Sketch for PI
* Specific Aims (1 page)
* Research Strategy (up to 6 pages)
	+ In addition to Significance, Innovation, and Approach must include:
		- Relevance to the DCMR theme
		- Planned use of the Multiscale Assessments Core
		- Future extramural funding plans
* Success from prior IDeA Awards (if applicable)
* Updated Other Support document listing active grants and pending grant applications for PI
* Checklist Format Page with F&A cost breakdown
* The Research Project Leader's home institution must demonstrate, in a letter(s) from the Dean, the Provost, or equivalent senior institutional official(s), a clear commitment to support a multi-year faculty appointment for the proposed Research Project Leader independent of the outcome of the COBRE grant application. Examples of strong institutional commitment include a start-up package provided by the institution and/or independent research space within the institution.
* PHS Forms F – Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form, IRB approval and documentations of the human subjects education for those in volved in the design and conduct of human subject research and submission of new enrollment report in HSS (if applicable)
* IACUC approval and Vertebrate Animal Section (if applicable)

**Eligibility**

PI must hold a tenure-track faculty appointment. Junior investigators will be given priority. A junior investigator is an individual who does not have and has not previously had an external, peer-reviewed Research Project Grant or equivalent award from either a Federal or non-Federal source as the PI (for example, PI of NIH R01, K99/R00, P01, or NSF grants are not Junior investigators. Allowable as Junior investigators are PIs of NIH R03 and R21).

As a Research Project Leaders that hold junior investigator status must make a minimum effort commitment of **six person-months annually**. Established investigators must make an initial effort commitment of **at least three person-months annually.**

In addition, investigators of any faculty rank who are making significant changes to their career goals by initiating new lines of research that are significantly different from their current investigative program may also serve as Research Project Leaders.

**Evaluation**

The Proposals will be evaluated according to NIH criteria for scientific merit by a review panel established by the DCMR Executive Committee and including the DCMR External Advisory Committee. Proposal will be given scores based on Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, and Environment, and an Overall Impact Score to reflect the assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, as well as its chance of being developed into a full NIH proposal with a high likelihood of success. Scores are on a 1 (exceptional) through 9 (poor) scale, following the standard NIH guidelines for reviews of individual R-type) research grants.

In addition to the scientific review (priority scores), proposals will also be evaluated based on how the investigator and scope of work fit within the mission of the DCMR Program, use of the DCMR Research Core, and the potential of investigators to use the funding to obtain major, independent funding.

**Expectations**

Awardees are required to attend the DCMR scientific events and meetings of the External Advisory Committee. They are required to cite the DCMR COBRE grant (NIH **P20 GM139760**) on all publications and to submit quarterly progress reports. Also, for NIH-defined new investigators, active participation in the mentoring process is required for both mentors and mentees, which includes completion of mentor reports. Awardees will be responsible for reporting on any outcomes at the end of the award and up to three years post award end.

All Research Project Leaders, regardless of their career status, must submit independent investigator-initiated research project grant (RPG) applications by the end of two years of COBRE support. It is expected that a Research Project Leader will be supported by the COBRE for three years and move to independent research support.

**Contacts**

For questions, contact Dawn Elliott, DCMR Director at delliott@udel.edu