**Call for COBRE PILOT 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 Pilot Proposals **($50,000 / year for 1 year)**. **Proposals are due on 09/15/2023.**

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, 2024. 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 11:59 PM EST, September 15, 2023.

**Instructions**

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

* NIH Face Page (Page 1)
* NIH Project Summary (Page 2)
* Key Personal Page (Page 3)
* Budget (PHS 398 Page 4) and Budget Justification
* Biographical Sketch
* Research Strategy (up to 3 pages)
  + In addition to Significance, Innovation, and Approach, the Research Strategy must include:
    - Relevance to the DCMR theme
    - Planned use of the Multiscale Assessments Core
    - Future extramural funding plans, which may include applying for a DCMR Project Grant in the future
* 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 be faculty and can be of any rank, however, 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).

**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.

**Contacts**

For questions, contact Dawn Elliott, DCMR Director at [delliott@udel.edu](mailto:delliott@udel.edu)