REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCLERODERMA CENTER OF RESEARCH TRANSLATION
PILOT & FEASIBILITY PROJECT PROGRAM

Participating Organizations
Boston University NiAMS Scleroderma Center of Research Translation, Boston University School of Medicine, (http://www.bu.edu/cort)
National Institutes of Health (NIH), (http://www.nih.gov)

Components of Participating Organizations
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), (http://www.niams.nih.gov)

Title: Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation (CORT)
Pilot & Feasibility Project Program

Key Dates
Release/Posted Date: November 1, 2012
Opening Date: December 1, 2012 (Earliest date an application may be submitted)
Letters of Intent Receipt Date: Not Applicable
Application Due Date: February 1, 2013
CORT Executive Committee Date: March 1, 2013
Advisory Committee Review Date: April 12, 2013

Summary

- **Purpose.** The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) is seeking small grant applications to stimulate and facilitate the entry of promising new investigators into research on scleroderma.
- **Mechanism of Support.** This FOA will be administered through the pilot project program in the NIAMS Scleroderma Center of Research Translation at Boston University School of Medicine.
- **Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards.** It is anticipated that approximately $50,000 (plus indirect costs) will be available for one to two years of support for this funding opportunity announcement (FOA). It is anticipated that up to three (3) new grants will be awarded each fiscal year under this program. Awards are contingent on the availability of appropriated funds and on the receipt of sufficiently meritorious applications meeting the stated eligibility requirements.
- **Budget and Project Period.** Applicants may request up to $50,000 (direct costs) for one to two years.
- **Research Plan Component Length:** The Research Strategy of the application may not exceed 6 pages, including tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, and charts, and should include sections addressing: Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, Research Design and Methods, Approach, and Results. See http://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/write_grant_doc.htm#contents
- **Eligible Institutions/Organizations.** Institutions of higher education are eligible to apply.
Research Objectives

This small grant program is designed to facilitate the entry of promising new investigators into research on scleroderma and related research disciplines. Proposals should have potential impact in scleroderma clinical care, and ideally should

1. Interface with and be related to themes explored in the Projects or Cores in the NIAMS Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation
2. Have the potential for developing ground-breaking technology or methodology that may lead to significant expansion of biomedical research horizons, precipitate a paradigm shift in research, or lead to substantial improvements in human health
3. Not overlap with currently supported projects

See www.bu.edu/cort for more information on BU SSc CORT Projects and Cores. Applicants are invited to contact the program with specific questions on the appropriateness of the research design of their proposals for this FOA: Dr. Robert Lafyatis - lafyatis@bu.edu

Eligible Applicants

Eligible Institutions

The following organizations/institutions are eligible to apply:

- Institutions of Higher Education

Eligible Individuals

- Individuals with no former grant support or former and current recipients of Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) (R15), Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Awards (K08), Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards (K01), Mentored Patient Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23), Shannon Awards (R55), or Individual (F32) or Institutional (T32) National Research Service Award (NRSA) training support are eligible to apply for this Small Grant Program, dependent upon the status of other support for the project. Grants awarded through this FOA may not be used to support thesis or dissertation research.
- Individuals whose sole previous support has been through pilot and feasibility studies (with the exception of R21 support) may apply.
- Individuals with previous support of any form with a new, innovative research approach to scleroderma may apply.

Content and Form of Application Submission

Prepare all applications using the PHS398 application forms and in accordance with the PHS398 Application Guide. For more information on the PHS398 application, see the guidelines and forms at:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

A completed application in response to this FOA will include the following components:
Required Components:

- Face Page
- Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells
- Research Grant Table of Contents
- Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period
- Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period
- Biographical Sketch(s)
- Other Support
- All Personnel Report
- Resources
- Targeted/Planned Enrollment (if applicable)
- Research Plan
- Checklist

Application Processing

Applications may be submitted on or after the opening date and must be successfully received by the Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation 5:00 p.m. local time (of the applicant institution/organization) on the application due date. If an application is not submitted by the due date and time, the application may be delayed in the review process or not reviewed. All applications must meet the following criteria to be considered on-time:

- All applications must be submitted by email to Mrs. Kate Brennan, Administrative Director of the NIAMS Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation, at brennank@bu.edu
- Applications must be in one PDF document and conform to the PHS398 guidelines

Upon receipt, applications will be evaluated for completeness by the Boston University Scleroderma Center for Research Translation. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. There will be an acknowledgement of receipt of applications by email.

Review and Selection Process

Applications that are complete will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit and relevance by the Executive Committee of the Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation on or about March 1, 2013. Those applications deemed to have the highest scientific merit will be recommended for review by the External Advisory Committee of the Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation. The Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee will convene on April 12, 2013 to score each grant application. Scores will be averaged and proposals ranked by average score for NIAMS review. The award recipient will be contacted by the Administrative Director of the Boston University Scleroderma Center of Research Translation after NIAMS review.