

Collaborative Seed Grant Program in Aging

For several months Dr. Volker Neugebauer with the Garrison Institute on Aging (GIA) has been working with Dr. Steven L. Berk on a new collaborative seed grant program. Today, we are happy to announce up to \$160,000 will be awarded. These grants are internally funded for TTUHSC faculty from all five schools to form multi-investigator collaborative teams to generate external grant applications that acknowledge and include the GIA.

Goal: To stimulate innovative and high impact multidisciplinary collaborative research programs across TTUHSC for the successful competition for federal funding.

Topic: Research on healthy aging, aging-related health issues, and neurodegenerative disorders, including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease that is in line with the mission of the GIA.

Eligibility: TTUHSC faculty from all campuses eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator.

Selection criteria: Preference will be given to applications that meet the following:

- Are aligned with the goal and topic of the seed grant program
- Selected applicants must provide a clear path for a grant application within 6-9 months of receiving seed funding (e.g., well developed Specific Aims page and identification of funding opportunity)
- Involve investigators (Principal or Co-Investigators) from at least two of the five TTUSHC schools
- Utilize GIA resources, which include any of the following:
 - Personnel
 - Labs: behavioral core, molecular labs, electrophysiology;
 - Database: Project FRONTIER
 - Samples and tissues: Project FRONTIER and Brain Bank
 - Please note: Resources are subject to Executive Director and selection committee approval.
- Are headed by a Principal Investigator with a proven track record of effective collaborations
- Involve a team of investigators with a track record of productivity (publications and funding)
- Provide evidence for feasibility of completing the project and submitting a collaborative grant application for external funding
- Provide information as to why the project cannot be otherwise initiated using regular department or school resources

Resources:

- GIA personnel
- GIA facilities (behavioral, molecular, electrophysiology)
- GIA Project FRONTIER database
- GIA Project FRONTIER and Brain Bank samples and tissues

- Up to \$20,000 per project, pending justification and progress report (we plan to fund up to 8 projects)

Application format:

- Information about Principal and other Investigators (name, affiliation, address, email)
- Research Plan (11 point font, single spaced):
 - Specific Aims page (NIH grant style) with brief introduction, hypothesis, aims, study design, and expected outcomes (1 page)
 - Description of Significance and Innovation, including key background information (1 page)
 - Study design and methodology, including any preliminary data or supporting data in the literature (2-3 pages)
- Targeted external funding opportunity and timeline for study progress and application for external funding
- Detailed Budget (personnel, supplies, resources, etc.)
- Biosketch of Principal and other Investigators (NIH style preferred; no extensive CV)
- The proposal should be written in language understandable to TTUHSC faculty with sufficient details for evaluation by experts in the respective field.

Progress and final report: Awardees will receive 50% of the funding on February 1, 2020. An interim report is required to release the remaining 50% of the funds. A final project report will be due within 2 months after the end of the award period.

Review process: A selection committee comprised of TTUHSC faculty and GIA members will review proposals meeting the above selection criteria.

Submission deadline: 5:00 pm (CST), January 03, 2020

Submissions should be emailed to Ruben Gonzales, Director, Research and Brain Bank, Garrison Institute on Aging Research at ruben.gonzales@ttuhsc.edu.

Funding period: February 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Questions? Contact Dr. Volker Neugebauer, Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer, Garrison Institute on Aging, at volker.neugebauer@ttuhsc.edu.