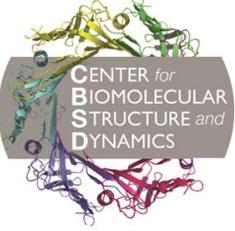


# NIH CBSD CoBRE Call for 2018 Phase II Pilot Project Proposals

	<p>Letter of Intent due: January 29, 2018 Invitation for full application by February 5, 2018 Applications due: March 12, 2018 Anticipated CBSD Selection Date: April 19, 2018 Anticipated Start Date: August 1, 2018</p>
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## NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics

[\(http://hs.umt.edu/cbsd/\)](http://hs.umt.edu/cbsd/)

**Summary:** The Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics (CBSD) Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) expects to support two or more Pilot Projects in the range of \$25,000 to \$40,000 in direct costs for one year during the funding period August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019. Applications must describe a pilot-type research project that fits well with the scientific theme of the CBSD and will provide preliminary data for a substantial extramural research project grant application. Preference will be given to projects that will make good use of one or more CBSD CoBRE Core Facilities at the University of Montana. This competition is open to all full time research, tenure-track or tenured faculty at the University of Montana, with some restrictions (see **Eligibility**).

**Eligibility:** All tenured, tenure-track or research-track full-time faculty members are eligible. New or Early-Stage (Junior) investigators are encouraged to apply. Individuals currently receiving support from the CBSD CoBRE as research project investigators, career development faculty, or as Core facility directors or managers may not serve as Pilot Project PIs. Investigators receiving support from Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) are not eligible to apply for this award, nor may investigators receive research support from multiple CoBREs simultaneously. Applications from 2017 pilot project awardees will not ordinarily be considered without strong justification.

Project areas that fall within the scientific focus of the CBSD include but are not limited to:

- Structural, biochemical or biophysical studies of macromolecules in the context of their *in vitro* or *in vivo* activity;
- Design or development of small molecule models of macromolecular function (e.g., catalysis), small molecules that interact with, inhibit or activate macromolecules in the context of their *in vitro* or *in vivo* activity;
- Computational studies of protein or nucleic acid structure and function, preferably when combined with experimental studies; computational analysis of DNA or amino acid sequence aimed at elucidating protein or nucleic acid structure, function or evolution;
- Development of methods, tools or algorithms that facilitate the above;

**Criteria for evaluation of CoBRE applications:** The basic criteria for NIH grant review may be found at [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg\\_D.htm - rpg\\_01](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg_D.htm - rpg_01)

Additional CoBRE-specific review criteria include:

- Likelihood of the project becoming competitive for independent R01 or NSF funding;
- Likelihood of producing a publishable result within the one-year time frame;
- Relevance to the CBSD theme (see above);
- A clear, detailed plan for utilization of one or more CBSD Core Facilities

(<http://hs.umt.edu/cbsd/facilities/default.php>);

- Background, experience and career status of the applicant;
- Track record of past research, research grant applications and research funding.

### General Terms and Conditions of CBSD COBRE Research Project Awards:

1. PI or Co-I salary will not be supported. Funds may be used for consumable supplies, core facility user fees, services or small laboratory hardware, but not for equipment (i.e. items costing > \$5000). Personnel costs are allowable but preference will be given to applications that name specific individuals who are assured to be present on-site and eligible to work at the beginning of the funding period. Travel costs are limited to essential research-related travel. Tuition costs are allowable as per standard institutional policies.
2. Investigators who receive COBRE pilot project support are REQUIRED, when possible to participate in the regular monthly research meetings of the Center, and are encouraged to participate in seminars, workshops and other special activities organized or sponsored by the Center.
3. A progress report (ca. 1 page in length including publications, presentations, grant applications submitted or awarded) is required from each COBRE Pilot Project Leader by April 15th of each year for inclusion in the COBRE annual report to NIH
4. PI agrees to submit grant applications that are based on data or results obtained from the CBSD Pilot Project research supported through the CBSD (The Center shares IDCs with PI's home department).
5. Research on Human Subjects will not be supported.
6. Term and budget adjustments: The COBRE Director reserves the right to make term and budget adjustments in accordance with the intent of the COBRE-CBSD program and NIH policies concerning scientific overlap of projects. For example, if a COBRE investigator receives his/her own R01 grant the COBRE grant may be reduced to adjust for overlap, up to and including 100% reduction if the scientific overlap is extensive.
7. Unanticipated new requirements. By accepting COBRE funds, awardees agree to comply with any and all requirements not already mentioned that may be imposed on COBRE-CBSD by NIH or other institutional authorities.

NOTE: Prospective applicants with questions about eligibility, program details, or the "fit" of their project to the CBSD theme are encouraged to contact Dr. Stephen Sprang (406-243-6028); [stephen.sprang@umontana.edu](mailto:stephen.sprang@umontana.edu).

### TO APPLY:

#### Step 1 – Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

- Due at **5 p.m. (MDT), January 29, 2018** to [stephen.sprang@umontana.edu](mailto:stephen.sprang@umontana.edu).
- **On university letterhead signed by you, explain in 300 words or fewer, the proposed research and how specifically it relates to the scientific theme of the CBSD.** If applicable, explain specifically how the project will utilize one or more of the CBSD COBRE Core Research Facilities: see (<http://hs.umt.edu/cbsd/facilities/default.php>).
- Include an up-to-date NIH Biosketch in the most recent format: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>. For the purposes of this LOI, an NSF-style biosketch may be used. However, the former will be required in a full application.
- Include Other Support information. Use format shown in sample page from <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/2590/2590.htm> (see "other support format page: example") List all current research support from all sources. For each source listed, provide the name of funding source, title of project, if applicable, project start and end dates, and amount of direct costs available (give the amount available to you if a multi-investigator grant), and your effort

(person months) on that project. For pending applications, please include the expected decision date. If you are a recently hired faculty member and are still being supported by a startup package, please report amount initially provided, current unspent balance, and expiration date.

- Compile the Letter of Intent, Biosketch, and Other Support information into a *single* PDF document and send as an email attachment to [stephen.sprang@umontana.edu](mailto:stephen.sprang@umontana.edu) and cc. to [sara.jestrab@umontana.edu](mailto:sara.jestrab@umontana.edu). **You will be notified on or before February 5, 2018 whether to proceed with a full application.**
  - **At that time, provide the names of 3 to 5 people who are qualified to review your proposal.** These individuals should be experts in the general research area of your proposal, have a history of NSF or NIH funding, should not be faculty or staff of the University of Montana, past or current collaborators, postdoctoral mentors or advisors, close friends or relatives.

**Step 2 – Upon invitation, prepare and submit a complete application:** you will be provided with template forms for this purpose. Please *do not* use NIH SF424 forms uploaded from Grants.gov or other web-based forms.

- The Application should include the following components:
  - Project Summary, key/senior personnel (form page 2)
  - Facilities and Resources. Include major equipment available to project (resources form page).
  - Updated Biosketch in NIH format. Include Biosketches of key personnel and other significant contributors
  - Detailed budget and budget justification (use budget form provided). Applicants must consult with Heidi Boggs, CBSD Financial Officer ([Heidi.boggs@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Heidi.boggs@mso.umt.edu); 406-243-6117) for assistance with formulating the budget. Project period dates are 8/1/2018 – 7/31/2019.
  - Research Plan (Use Continuation Format Page) should have the following components
    - Specific aims: limit to 2 specific aims. (1 page)
    - Research Strategy (6 pages maximum)
    - Background and Significance (1-2 pages recommended).
    - Innovation (one paragraph)
    - Approach
      - Preliminary data (if any; not required)
      - Experimental design
      - Anticipated Results, data analysis, Alternative approaches
        - (Please note NIH’s new emphasis on “scientific rigor and reproducibility” (see <https://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/index.htm>). Data analysis issues should be included in Experimental design. Address validation of cell lines and antibodies.)
        - Research plan should explain how the proposed aims will support a future application for an NIH, NSF (or equivalent) research project grant.
  - Bibliography (short, less than 35 references)
  - As appropriate, include letters of support from Directors of CBSD or other UM Core Facility Laboratories that you plan to use. The Director and Manager of the core should certify that they have the expertise and resources to provide the services proposed in the project. Letter should include an estimate of core facility fees and costs for the duration of the project for inclusion in the budget.
  - Please note also the following:
    - Follow formatting guidance for NIH grants (generally, Arial 11 point font, 0.5” page margins works well). Smaller font acceptable for figure legends, if legible at 100% scale.

- All figures and lettering must be large enough to be clearly legible at 100% scale.
- **If your research involves vertebrate animals, you must formulate an appropriate animal protocol and obtain IACUC approval.** Refer to [Worksheet for Review of the Vertebrate Animal Section](#). Please contact [Stephen Sprang](#) if your proposal requires the use of vertebrate animals.

**Please compile application into a single PDF document**

Send all application materials by email (or address any questions) to Stephen Sprang ([stephen.sprang@umontana.edu](mailto:stephen.sprang@umontana.edu) 406-243-6028); no later than **5 p.m. (MDT), March 12, 2018**. cc. Sara.Jestrab@umontana.edu.

- Questions about formulating budgets should be addressed to Heidi Boggs ([Heidi.boggs@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Heidi.boggs@mso.umt.edu); 406-243-6117).
- If selected for funding, applicants will be required to furnish copies of all relevant compliance approvals (radioisotopes, recombinant DNA, vertebrate animals, etc.)