Announcement: Applications Solicited for the DePaul – RFUMS Research Pilot Grant Program – Round II

As part of the alliance between DePaul University and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS) we are pleased to announce the second round of our inter-institutional collaborative research grant program. Funds procured to support this effort will be awarded on a competitive basis via a peer review committee process. The primary goal of this program is to enable development of *new inter-institutional collaborative research projects between DePaul and RFUMS investigators* that: i) result in high-impact peer reviewed publications; and ii) "seed" larger, long-term extramural funding by federal or private granting agencies for new collaborative research between the two institutions. Importantly, Co-PIs of projects funded during the first round of the program can seek a second year of funding, *on a competitive basis.*

**Criteria for Funding**

1) Excellence.

2) The high potential to directly transform anticipated results into NEW extramural funding initiatives.

3) Effective complementarity and articulation between DePaul and RFUMS scientists.

4) All projects proposed must be capable of being conducted within the time frame indicated below.

*If you are uncertain as to whether your research project meets the above criteria, please contact either Dr. Joanne Romagni (AVPR, DePaul University) or Dr. Ronald Kaplan (VPR, RFUMS) before preparing an application.*

**Application Details and Requirements**

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI; PDF format) including a title, the names of the Co-PIs, and a brief statement of intent (one paragraph in length) to both the Office of the Associate Vice President for Research, DePaul (JROMAGNI@depaul.edu) and the Office of the Vice President for Research, RFUMS (ronald.kaplan@rosalindfranklin.edu) by **Friday, August 22nd, 2014.** Final applications are to be submitted (as a single PDF of the complete application) to the same offices by **5 pm, Monday, September 15th, 2014.** PI's can request up to a maximum of $100,000 direct costs for the period of funding beginning December 1, 2014 and extending through November 30, 2015. Budgets must be well justified and appropriate to the type and extent of the proposed project. They will be carefully evaluated. Funds can be used for supplies, personnel, and equipment (< $2,000) in support of the project, but cannot be used for faculty salaries or indirect costs. A brief six month progress report and a year-end final report will be required.

Applications will utilize a modified NIH R21 format (*including page limits*) consisting of: Routing Sheet, Face Page, Abstract, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, References Cited, Biographical
Sketch for all Co-PIs, Budget, and Budget Justification (note: All budget requests must be clearly justified in detail). Please note that these are maximum page limits (see modified NIH R21 Format Document).

**Note the following points:**

1) Each project must have Co-Principal Investigators – **at least** one from DePaul and one from RFUMS.

2) These funds cannot be used to supplant funds or resources that are available from other sources.

3) When relevant, investigators are strongly encouraged to submit IRB and/or IACUC applications when they submit their proposals to minimize delays in initiating funded projects.

Applications will be reviewed by a Grant Review Committee consisting of an equal number of DePaul and RFUMS faculty members. External reviews may be solicited if thought necessary by the Co-Chairs of the Grant Review Committee. The Grant Review Committee will assign a merit score to each submitted grant proposal, rank order the proposals, and report its findings to the Research Committee. The Research Committee will consider the merit scores and other factors (such as compatibility with institutional initiatives and areas of focus; likely success of a given project; potential importance to a field of study, etc.). Then, it will make a recommendation to the Alliance Oversight Committee about projects that should be funded.

**Finally, one additional page must be appended to the end of the application** in which the PIs address the following questions:

a) What is your precise plan to obtain extramural funding? Include the time-line, benchmarks to be attained, and whether any current or recent external funding opportunities or program announcements (e.g., RFAs or PAs) exist that focus on this area of research.

b) How does this proposed project compare with your current and previous research efforts?

c) What are the specific roles of each Co-PI in the proposed project?

**Resubmitted Proposals**

For revised proposals being resubmitted following last year’s review make sure to:

1) include the reviewer’s comments that were forwarded to you following the previous review at the end of your application.

2) include a **one page “Introduction”** that summarizes the substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application **immediately before the “Specific Aims” page**. The Introduction must also include a response to the issues and criticism raised in the previous review.

3) mark substantial scientific changes in the text of the application by bracketing, indenting, or change of typography. Do not underline or shade the changes. Deleted sections should be described but not marked as deletions. If the changes are so extensive that essentially all of the text would be marked, explain this in the Introduction.
A “Progress Report” must be included in all competitive renewal applications. This section should follow the “Specific Aims” page and precede the “Research Strategy” section and should describe the results from the first year of funding as described below.

Provide the beginning and ending dates for the period covered. Summarize the specific aims of the previous project period, the findings you have obtained and their importance, and emphasize the progress made toward their achievement. Include Tables, Graphs, pictures, etc. as appropriate. Explain any significant changes to the specific aims and any new directions.

List the titles and complete references to all publications, as well as manuscripts accepted or submitted for publication (clearly denote manuscript status), abstracts, meeting presentations, patents, and other printed materials that have resulted from the project. The maximum length of the Progress Report is limited to three pages.