**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OFFICE OF RESEARCH**
**EMERGING CHALLENGES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH (ECBR)**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

*Spring 2016 Challenge: Research relevant to emergent, insect-borne diseases*

**I. Summary of Award**
The School of Medicine’s Office of Research is soliciting proposals for a new pilot project mechanism—*Emerging Challenges in Biomedical Research*. The intent of the new awards is to provide support for innovative, early stage research relevant to NIH priorities.

The supported research is expected to lead to submission of novel interdisciplinary program project grants and multiple PI R01s by UNC SOM investigators. Preference will be given to new projects and ideas from individual investigators and cross-cutting teams with the highest impact research across the spectrum of basic and clinical research. The funds are not meant as a supplement or bridge to an existing project.

The purpose of the current challenge (Spring 2016) is to capture the broad interdisciplinary expertise of SOM faculty relevant to emergent insect-borne diseases. It is anticipated that future funding challenges will be aligned with high profile research objectives such as concept clearances from NIH institutes and the [Common Fund](#).

**II. Award Administration**
The SOM Office of Research will administer ECBR funding. The awards will provide up to $60K for a 1-year period. To receive funding, the lead PI(s) must have primary appointments in the SOM.

**III. Eligibility**
- **The team leaders must hold a primary appointment in the School of Medicine.** Teams may include collaborators from other schools, but the Principal Investigators must be SOM faculty.
- The proposal should represent a new avenue of research for the investigators. This is a key criteria for review. There must be no prior internal or external funding for the project or funding overlap. This award is *not* intended as supplementary or bridge funding.

**IV. Application Process**
1. **The Application Components are as follows:**
   - Abstract (1/2 page)
   - Specific Aims (1 page)
   - Research Plan (3 pages)
     - Description of Research Team
     - Significance
     - Project Design and Methods. (Include statistical analysis and justification.)
     - Timeline and goals for future funding.
   - Detailed Budget and Justification
     - Funds may be allocated to support research staff, supplies, core facility fees, travel directly related to project goals, and small equipment. Salary support for faculty is not an allowable cost. Salary support for trainees, and technicians are permissible. Funds will support direct costs only.
• NIH Biosketches for Key Personnel
  o Include current and pending support and internal as well as external funding sources

All Submissions are due by **May 10, 2016** and should be emailed to: jenbren@med.unc.edu
If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Brennan at the email address above or at 966-8089.