



SERCEB

Southeast Regional Center of Excellence
for Emerging Infections and Biodefense

SERCEB Career Development Award REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFA issue date: November 6, 2008

Application Deadline: January 9, 2009

Approximate Award Date: March 1, 2009

The primary goal of the Southeast Regional Center of Excellence for Emerging Infections and Biodefense (SERCEB) is to assist the nation in developing and deploying effective and rapid responses to emerging infectious diseases and biotreats. Through our research programs in host-pathogen interactions and interventions, we aim to discover new therapies and principles by which effective vaccines and other intervention measures can be developed for diseases and pathogens that threaten the health of our citizens. Our Career Development Awards Program, described here, offers young tenure-track investigators across our region up to 3 years of funding to focus their career interests on research in the area of emerging infectious diseases and biodefense (EID/BD).

Eligibility

Minimum requirements for applicants are a PhD or MD (or MD/PhD) and eligibility for receipt of NIH training funds. Candidates should be from SERCEB member or affiliate institutions across Region IV (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky), and a member of a university medical center or research institute. Postdoctoral candidates who are not yet in a tenure track position with more than six years of postdoctoral experience are not eligible. Those candidates who have already been appointed to a full-time non-tenure track or tenure-track position must be within three years of appointment at the time of the award. They must not yet have received an RO1 or equivalent award. Ideal candidates are ready to transition to their first faculty appointment, or have just made the transition. Exceptions may be made to these criteria with approval of NIH program staff. Candidates may be interested in any discipline in which SERCEB offers expertise, but we expect most will be interested in basic sciences related to pathogenesis of EID/BD, innate or adaptive immunity,

vaccinology, or drug discovery and development, which are the main thematic areas of SERCEB programs. Candidates with a specific interest in emergency preparedness and infectious diseases epidemiology also are eligible. Minorities and women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Award Specifics

Successful applicants will be provided with salary and research support of up to \$100,000 per year plus appropriate fringe benefits. At least 25% of the award is to be used for research expenses. Awards may be repeated yearly for up to two additional years upon demonstration of successful progress. SERCEB support also will be provided for tuition and other educational requirements, and for travel to one meeting plus the SERCEB annual meeting each year.

Programmatic Details

The SERCEB Career Development Awardee (CDA) must devote at least 80% effort to a research plan described in their application. Each CDA must designate on their application a principal mentor. As part of the CDA's application, the mentor must submit a letter of support outlining a plan for the CDA, including space assignments and plans to achieve separation of the CDA's research from that of the mentor. Each CDA also will have an Advisory Committee, made up of the mentor, a member of the SERCEB Steering Committee (SC), and one or two other senior faculty in the field. The role of the Advisory Committee is to meet with and help guide the career of the CDA. The advisory committee must meet with the CDA no less than twice yearly, and are required to submit to the SERCEB SC annually a report and recommendation regarding continuation for another year of support.

At the conclusion of the two-or-three year tenure of the CDA, the awardee will be eligible to apply for a Developmental Project award, which would provide up to two years additional research support. The goal of this program is to increase the number of basic and translational researchers in (EID/BD).

Application Process

Application deadline is Friday, January 9, 2009. Applications must include the following items. Please use current forms available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html> for the PHS-398 forms requested below.

- Career Development Award application cover sheet (attached to this RFA).
- PHS-398 Form Page 1: Face Page, with all institutional signatures
 - Dates of proposed period of support should be 03/01/09-02/28/11
 - Limit request to \$100,000 direct costs per year
 - JIT for animal or human subjects approvals

- PHS-398 Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Funding Period
- PHS-398 Form Page 5: Budget and justification
- Biographical Sketch and Research Support
- **Personal Statement (5 pages maximum):** Include qualifications, career goals, potential EID/BD areas of interest, proposed research project, proposed Advisory Committee.
- PHS-398 Checklist
- Letters of support from selected mentor, appropriate institutional official (e.g., Department Chair), one other faculty-level individual familiar with candidate's work.

An original with institutional signatures on PHS-398 Face page and eight (8) copies of the application should be sent to the address below. Also, please email an electronic version to elainef@med.unc.edu:

Elaine G. Fitzsimons
SERCEB Associate Director
Room 5110 Bioinformatics Building
CB #7537
130 Mason Farm Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7537
Phone: 919-843-7937

For further information, please contact Elaine Fitzsimons at 919-843-7937 or email elainef@med.unc.edu.



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Career Development Award Application Cover Sheet

Applicant Name:

Title:

Institution:

Applicant address:

Phone:

Email:

Applicant Signature _____

Proposed Mentor:

Title:

Institution:

Applicant address:

Phone:

Email:

Mentor Signature _____