

PR-INBRE Developmental Research Project Program: Call for Letters of Intent
Release Date September 15, 2023

Overview: This announcement is a call for Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the PR-INBRE 2P20GM103475-22 Developmental Research Projects Program. As a goal of the PR-INBRE to establish a solid foundation of research excellence and capacity via mentoring and training of promising faculty in PR, this FOA will provide funding for Full and Pilot projects to qualified faculty in the PR-INBRE network.

The research proposals will go through several tiers of review that include initial review of the LOIs, followed by an invitation for completed full and pilot proposals. The proposals will be subjected to peer-review by at least two experts in the field and will be discussed and ranked by a five-member review committee. Funding recommendations will be based on the technical merit of the applications, as well as the programmatic objectives of supporting quality research culled from a broad range of INBRE institutions and target areas. The selected applications will then receive another tier of review by the External Advisory Committee, followed by final approval from the NIH IDeA Program.

An Applicant may submit only one application as principal investigator.

LOIs and queries regarding this FOA can be directed by e-mail to the Developmental Research Program Director at: inbre_proposals@hpcf.upr.edu

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- ï **Letters of intent for Full/Pilot projects due:** **October 15, 2023**
- ï **Invitations for Full/Pilot proposals:** **October 22, 2023**
- ï **Full/Pilot proposals due:** **December 22, 2023**
- ï **Earliest projects start date:** **July 01, 2024**

Proposals that are not compliant with programmatic goals or do not contain the requested information will not be invited for complete proposals.

Mandatory components of a LOI

1. **Cover letter** containing the following information:
 - ï Full name, faculty title, and institutional affiliation
 - ï Title of project
 - ï The thematic area (***Bioinformatics, Neuroscience, Molecular Medicine/Genomics, or Drug Discovery and Development***)
 - ï Identified mentor (for full proposals) or collaborator (for pilot projects)
2. **One page abstract** including the health relevance, rationale, hypothesis, specific aims, and a brief description of the research design. Applicants must articulate how the proposed project falls within the scope of one of the INBRE thematic areas.
3. **NIH biosketch** (5 pages limit, please, use current form)

Full proposals

Up to 6 collaborative research projects for 2 years are expected to be funded.
Start date: 07/15/2024
End date: 06/30/2026
Total Funds: \$200,000 Direct costs + indirect costs

Eligibility for Full proposals:

- ï **Early-stage investigators**, as defined by 10 years within the completion of a terminal research degree such as a Ph.D. or MD/Ph.D., from any **PUI** in the PR-INBRE network institutions (*UPR Mayaguez, UPR Cayey, UPR Humacao, UAGM Gurabo, UAGM Carolina, UAGM Cupey, U Inter Metro*) are eligible to apply.
- ï **Current INBRE investigators** with more than 5 years of INBRE support may apply; however, priority will be given to investigators with less than 5 years of INBRE support.
- ï Proposals from current INBRE-funded investigators must address new aims, not related to the specific aims of the currently funded INBRE projects.

- ï Investigators must not have had previous R-type funding.
- ï Investigators may not hold a developmental-type research project award, such as MBRS/SCORE or RCMI or U54 pilot projects, at the time of funding.
- ï Investigators must be full-time faculty with tenure-track or renewable/modified tenure track positions.
- ï The research projects must be in the following thematic areas: Bioinformatics, Neuroscience, Molecular Medicine/Genomics, or Drug Discovery and Development.
- ï If you are proposing an “omics” related project, the INBRE Bioinformatics core needs to be contacted for support at <https://www.hpcf.upr.edu>, prior to grant submission.
- ï The **mentors** selected must be established investigators from research-intensive institutions, with expertise in one of these thematic scientific cluster areas. *If necessary, we can assist you with identifying a suitable mentor.*

Pilot Proposals

Seed funds will be available for up to ten collaborative pilot projects for 2 years.

Start date: 07/15/2024
 End date: 06/30/2026
 Total Funds: \$100,000 Direct costs + indirect costs

Eligibility for Pilot Proposals from investigators at any developmental stage of their career, who demonstrate strong collaborations with established investigators at other INBRE institutions. Pilot projects may be requested to obtain preliminary data for submission of proposals to other grant mechanisms, to complete a project for a potential publication, or to gather preliminary data for a resubmission of an unsuccessful grant proposal. Investigators must be from either a PUI or an outreach institution to apply.

OIs: *Ponce SOM, UCC, UPR Ponce, UPR Aguadilla, UPR Carolina, U Inter San German, U Inter Bayamon, Pont Cat U, Sagrado Corazon, U Carlos Albizu*

- ï Investigators from any stage of development, from any institution in the PR-INBRE network, with full-time faculty positions, may apply.
- ï The applicant must identify a qualified collaborator from an INBRE network institution. The collaborator may be an established investigator from any research-intensive institution in the INBRE network.
- ï The research projects must be in the following thematic areas: Bioinformatics, Neuroscience, Molecular Medicine/Genomics, or Drug Discovery and Development.
- ï If you are proposing an “omics” related project, the INBRE Bioinformatics core needs to be contacted for support at <https://www.hpcf.upr.edu>, prior to grant submission.
- ï *If you currently have a pilot project and you are applying for two more years, of the same project, please, clearly articulate how the aims are different from those of the funded project and submit a one-page progress report, as an additional page to your proposal.*

Criteria for Full and Pilot Proposals:

The proposals will follow the **NIH PHS 398** format and will consist of a Face Page (signed by the institutional representative), a Project Summary, Specific Aims page, and a Research Strategy (12 pages for full proposals and 6 pages for pilot projects) including Significance, Innovation, and Approach Sections. Budget and Budget Justification sections are not subject to these page limits.

- ï A letter or e-mail of commitment should be supplied from the mentor for full proposals and a collaborator for pilot projects.
- ï A concise mentoring plan (for full projects) or a collaboration plan (for pilot projects) should be included within the proposal page limit.
- ï The NIH guidelines for Human Subjects Research, Vertebrate Animals, Select Agents Research, and Resource Sharing should be followed and included after the Research strategy but without the constraints of the proposal page limits. *Applications that do not include these sections will be administratively withdrawn.*
- ï If appropriate, projects should include evidence of having applied for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for Human Subjects Research, IACUC, and Biosafety Committees. Projects will not receive funding until the appropriate IRB approvals have been received.

- ï A minimum 25% FTE is required from the PI on Pilot Projects. A minimum 50% FTE is required on Full Projects. Salary support for the PI is allowed on Full and Pilot Projects.
- ï Salary for a technician and funds for supplies are allowed with both mechanisms. Student's may receive salary allowances, **but not tuition payments or stipends**.
- ï F&A costs are allowed.
- ï **Additional requirements:** Five pages NIH Biosketch, Facilities and Resources (no page limit), and Other Support (no page limit).

SUMMARY

	Full Proposals	Pilot Proposals
Application page limit	1 page Specific Aims, 12 pages Research Strategy	1 page Specific Aims, 6 page Research Strategy
Mentoring/Collaboration Plan	Should be included within the 12-page limit	Should be included within the 6-page limit
Required Support Letters	Letter or e-mail from the mentor and a letter of support from Department chair detailing full time employment as faculty with approval of at least 50% release time.	Letter or e-mail from the collaborator and a letter of support from Department chair detailing full time employment as faculty with approval of at least 25% release time.
IRB and IACUC Applications	Evidence required if applicable	Evidence required if applicable
Number of anticipated awards	4	10
Total Period Direct Funding	\$200,000	\$100,000
Maximum Project period	2 Years	2 Years