Introduction

The Brain and Behavioral Health Institute (BBHI) of the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center (HSC) is soliciting applications from all HSC faculty members for mini-grants to help access UNM core resources in Domenici Hall.

Domenici Hall is being developed as the hub for interdisciplinary brain and behavioral research programs at UNM HSC. Core resources include state of the art facilities and services for rodent behavioral testing, animal MRI, electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR), optical and electrophysiology, cell and molecular, image analysis, neuropsychological testing and clinical assessment.

All core services operate on a fee-for-service basis and, while rates are modest, it is appreciated that some users do not have grant or departmental funds available for UNM core user fees. For this reason, we are allocating BBHI funds through this mini-grant mechanism, to be used specifically for core user fees, for UNM Domenici Hall cores.

BBHI anticipates awarding at least 10 mini-grants, with a maximum of $3,000 per award. The total amount available for the award program is $30,000 and grants will be awarded until these program funds have been exhausted. All awards will be spent by June 30, 2018. No extensions will be granted.

Eligibility and Project Requirements

- Principal Investigators for these mini-grants must be members of the UNM HSC faculty. Successful projects will exemplify the BBHI research mission of developing basic, clinical or translational research to improve brain and behavioral health of New Mexicans of all ages.
- All investigators selected to receive funding will be expected to submit a short Final Progress Report at the end of the funded project, detailing how the mini-grant advanced progress on their research projects, expenditures, and any submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded) relating to the mini-grant.
- If investigators have received a previous BBHI mini-grant, the Final Progress Report must be
submitted and approved, before a new mini-grant application will be considered from the same research team.

Evaluation Criteria and Review
Applications will be brief, and reviewed on a rolling basis with a quick turn-around time. All applications will be reviewed for both scientific quality and programmatic relevance. The following criteria will be used in evaluating these proposals:
1. Scientific quality
2. Potential for pilot data to lead to new extramural funding
3. Utilization of BBHI and CTSC resources located at Domenici Hall
4. Financial Need (documented lack of grant or departmental support)

Application Deadline, Notice of Awards and Funding Cycle

Application Release Date: June 30th, 2017
Application Deadline: Rolling Deadline
Review Period: 2 Weeks
Notice of Award: 2-3 Weeks after Submission
Funding Duration: From notice of award date to end date of June 30, 2018

Budget Guidelines
Meeting with the BBHI Core Administrative Unit Administrator and CTSC Program Manager, Greg Trejo (gtrejo@salud.unm.edu) for consultation and planning purposes in the effective use of BBHI & CTSC Core services utilization for your research proposal is required.

Mini-grants can only be used to pay for UNM Domenici Hall core user fees. No other expenses (such as salaries, supplies, animal costs etc.) are permitted from this program.

The following UNM Domenici Hall Cores are included:
- **Animal MRI Core**: Provides structural and functional MRI in animal models with a 7T 37 cm bore MR scanner.
- **Clinical Assessment Core (CTSC North)**: Provides support for clinical trials, including clinical exam rooms with staff and standard assessment equipment via CTSC North.
- **Clinical Neuropsychology and Stimulation** (Center for Brain Recovery and Repair): Offers advanced neuropsychological testing, transcranial direct current stimulation, and EEG methods.
- **EPR Core**: Provides Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopy via an L band EPR and/or an X band EPR.
- **Image Analysis Core**: Workstations for MRI, MEG analysis
- **Preclinical Assessment Core (Center for Brain Recovery and Repair)**: Optical core offers 4 workstations to measure in vitro and in vivo measurements of cellular activity. Advanced behavioral testing facilities for rodents are also available.

For questions regarding Domenici Hall Cores please contact Greg Trejo (Gtrejo@salud.unm.edu) or 272-
A summary of current services and prices for UNM Domenici Hall can be found [here](#).

**How to Apply**

Applications should include, in the following order:

1. A completed **cover sheet form** (the “BBHI Mini-Grant Application” form) including all required signatures. Applicants must obtain a signature from the BBHI & CTSC North Core Administrator (Greg Trejo) prior to submission. Unsigned applications will be considered incomplete and will be returned.
2. A completed **UNM Domenici Hall Core resources requested form**.
3. **Budget justification, and justification that funds can be spent before June 30, 2018** (≤ two pages; budget in table format, followed by a concise budget justification in narrative form using the [BBHI & CTSC Pilot Budget Worksheet](#)). See Budget Guidelines section for details.
4. **NIH biographical sketch** for PI, including all sources of current and pending research support (including extramural, institutional and foundations etc.).
5. **Summary of research project** (≤ 2 pages, in the following order):
   a. Project goals
   b. Scientific need for core(s)
   c. Financial need for core mini-grant support
   d. How mini-grant project will support new extramural application(s), or renewal of existing support.
   e. Bibliography and references cited (not included in 2-page limit).
6. **Appropriate IACUC or HRRC approval**.
7. **No appendices are allowed**.

Please contact Greg Trejo ([GTrejo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:GTrejo@salud.unm.edu) or 272-7252) for all application forms.

Send your completed application via e-mail in **one PDF file** to Greg Trejo ([GTrejo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:GTrejo@salud.unm.edu)). Applications that do not adhere to the above instructions may not be reviewed. Please call Greg Trejo (272-7252) with any questions about this RFA or the application process.