

**Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation Initiative  
“the catalyst”**

**Funding Collaboration between Universities in Partnership with Industry  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI)**

LOIs and Applications For Future Awards Accepted on an Ongoing Basis  
For Consideration in Round Seven: LOIs must be received by June 8, 2017

**Program:**

This initiative is designed to improve human health by accelerating the commercialization of translational research through collaborations between Virginia research universities and industry. *This round of grant funding is intended to address neuroscience initiatives involving Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, ALS, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Mental Health, addiction and other brain disorders.*

**Specific goals include:**

1. Establishment of stronger working partnerships between Virginia academic research universities, the biotechnology industry, and health delivery systems that directly lead to an increase in: collaboration efforts and movement of ideas & technology from academia to industry and health delivery systems.
2. Creation of an environment that fosters relationships that will make Virginia a national leader in university/industry collaboration, innovation, company formation and job creation.
3. Improvement of the health of Virginia’s citizens and of Virginia’s economy through investment, innovation, job creation, and improved patient care.

The CEO of VBHRC/ “the catalyst” and the VBHRC Project Management and Oversight Panel will administer the Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation Initiative jointly. The Board of Directors of VBHRC must approve final awards.

**Eligibility:**

- Proposals must come from *active and significant* collaboration between at least two Virginia research universities and one industry partner in the biosciences field.
- Proposals have a matching funding requirement, beginning at 1:1 and rising to up to a 6:1 for major projects.
- Proposals must:
  - clearly identify large unmet need(s) in the market
  - demonstrate a positive impact on human health and/or patient care
  - delineate a competitive advantage and/or clinical utility
  - define commercialization pathways
  - hold potential for high impact near-term success in generating other sponsored research, creating spin-off companies or otherwise creating new jobs
  - be focused around the development, validation and application of new approaches to diagnosing, preventing and treating neurological conditions, including brain injuries, brain developmental disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, neuropsychiatric and behavioral disorders, addiction and substance abuse

**Review Criteria:**

- Scientific and Clinical impact:
  - Scientific/Clinical/Technical importance
  - Feasibility
  - Alignment of research interests and capabilities of applicants and the industry partner
- Economic impact
  - Potential for job creation
  - Potential to create new intellectual property
  - Potential to attract further investment funding (public or private)

- Potential for advancing prospective products more quickly to the market
- Commercialization
  - Regulatory and reimbursement strategies
  - Barriers to entry/freedom to operate
  - Project management/leadership

**Submission Guidelines:**

Letter of Intent Deadline: Round Seven – June 8, 2017

For Future Awards: Ongoing

A letter of intent (2-page maximum) prior to submission is required in advance of the application, and should include brief descriptions of the project and of the capabilities of the applicants to perform the research. These will be reviewed and appropriate submissions will be solicited for full applications. LOIs should be submitted by e-mail as a single PDF to Michael Grisham, CEO, Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation [mgrisham@vbhrc.com](mailto:mgrisham@vbhrc.com).

Detailed guidelines for full applications will be provided in response to appropriate LOIs. Full applications should not exceed the 12 page PowerPoint Presentation Template (see downloads tab on website). The proposal should clearly address the scientific/technical importance and commercialization potential of the project and how the funding will be used. Also, specific milestones and timelines to achieve objectives should be clearly defined.

Inclusion of proprietary information in LOIs or full applications is discouraged unless absolutely necessary for evaluation. When proprietary information is provided, it should be clearly marked and submitted as an appendix to the proposal.

Grant awards will be made in the range of \$200-\$800K. Companies receiving awards will be required to prepare quarterly progress reports and a final report for the VBHRC. Approvals for animal and/or human subjects (if needed) will be required “just in time” after awards are announced.

**Selection:**

Applications will be evaluated by the CEO of VBHRC and the Project Management and Oversight Panel. Feedback to the teams submitting proposals and on all funded team reports will be provided via the CEO of VBHRC.

**Duration:**

Grants are awarded annually and can cover expenses over an 18-month time frame. Follow-on grants may be renewed on a competitive basis with new applications. Grants may be terminated and remaining funds recalled at mid-year if progress reports are not acceptable. Competitive renewal applications must have a comparison of milestones achieved versus those planned in the original submission.

**Budgets:**

Eligible budget items include faculty and non-faculty salary support, clinical trial costs, operating supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging/core equipment time, and travel directly associated with the research activity. VBHRC’s indirect overhead rate for Universities is 30 percent.

**Contact Information**

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