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**The University of Michigan Health System – Peking University Health Science Center**

**Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**Summary**
The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and the Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC) Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research (<http://www.puuma.org/>) is accepting joint proposals from investigators working collaboratively at both institutions for pilot funding of projects that will demonstrate an effective team approach to discovery and new findings on diseases relative to both countries, and which can be leveraged for extramural funding opportunities.

**Awards**

Discovery Awards of up to $150,000/year for two years\*. Funding for all awards originate equally from UMHS and PUHSC with the intent that the respective amounts will be spent within the originating country.

\* For those who are earlier in the development of their partnerships are strongly encouraged to target proposals that are limited to $25,000-$50,000/year to facilitate the exchange of ideas, development of protocols, and the early generation of pilot data.

\* For those with an established track record of partnerships or an idea of extraordinary merit, higher funding levels will be considered and should be explored prospectively with Dr. Amy Huang and Prof. Qiudan Sun

**Expected Start Date:** July 1, 2014

**Submission Deadline**

Submission guideline for Discovery Awards are included in Section E below. All proposals are due by **March 30,2014 at 5:00 p.m. local time**

**Submission Contacts**

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file, including a request for notice of receipt to: yanhuang@umich.edu and sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn

1. **Purpose**

Both UMHS and PUHSC have made significant commitments to supporting scientists to translate scientific discoveries into real health gains more quickly and efficiently, and to promote the development of novel solutions that will ultimately improve health outcomes in the U.S., in China, and around the world. In the initial phase of the JI, three programs – pulmonary, cardiovascular, and liver – were identified because of their overall importance to global health, as well as the opportunity for effective collaboration and the potential for translational impacts. While these programs remain major research focus areas for the Joint Institute (JI), the Executive Board is extending the opportunity to become a part of the JI to scientists in other disciplines who seek to establish robust collaborations between the institutions that will lead to transformative science will lead to extramural funding. Proposals on diseases that have a larger impact on populations in China and the U.S. will be prioritized.

1. **Awards and Funding Allocations**

The funding allocation for each project will be informed by the estimated budgets that are reviewed within the context of the submitted outlines and suggested modifications to be included in the full proposal. The Discovery Awards are two-year awards. However, the second year grant shall be released based on year-one progress report.

Faculty salary will be considered only for *UMMS faculty who are integrally involved in the research aspects of the proposal*. Salaries for other non-faculty personnel may be included.

The purpose of the Discovery Awards is to promote collaborations that have yet to be fully established.

1. **Priorities and Requirements**

**Proposals must include Co- Principal Investigators from both UMHS and PUHSC.** The proposers should clearly indicate: 1) how the proposed study will lead to the desired impacts and 2)how the successful conduct of the seed project will enhance the prospect for securing third party funding. Moreover, preferences will be given to proposals that are able to identify specific external research programs for future funding through Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

Cost-sharing derived from sources outside the JI demonstrates the interest of third parties in the field and is strongly recommended. Although not an absolute requirement, this is particularly encouraged for co-PI’s outside of the Department of Internal Medicine in light of their major contribution to the funding that is available. The cost sharing would be used to offset some of the funding that is coming from the UM. The source, amount, and nature of such cost-sharing must be identified in writing and supported with a letter of commitment as part of the application.

Projects should have milestones and/or deliverables after year-one and year-two for progress and quality reviews, and must provide a continuing research plan for the years 3-5.

1. **PI Eligibility**

Full-time research faculty and tenured and tenure-track instructional faculty at UM Medical School and PUHSC are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators.

1. **Submission Guidelines**
2. Cover Sheet shall include:
* Title of the project
* Name, signatures of Principal Investigators (PIs) and Department Chairs, and contact information of PIs at UMHS and PUHSC
* Requested funding and established cost-sharing for each participant and for total project broken out by project year
1. Project Description (5-10 pages, single spaced, 11 pt font, additional background information shall be submitted as appendix):
	1. Executive summary
	2. Objectives (no more than 4)
	3. Background: Existing status quo/state-of-the-art and challenges
	4. Research Strategy and Methodology:
	* Experimental design/rationale
	* Description of major tasks and respective task leaders
	* Proposed timeline for major tasks and milestones
	* Future directions and research plans for the next three years
	* Opportunity for subsequent funding (beyond the scope of the seed project)
2. Plan for Protection of Human Subjects
3. NIH Biosketches of key personnel (maximum four pages per individual)
4. Plans (if any) for interchange of personnel between institutions (include: name of mentors and trainees, training time frame, training objectives/curriculums/activities, description of the trainees’ major role in the project)
5. Identification of project-relevant Background Intellectual Property, if applicable
6. Budget to include

Line item budget:

1. Personnel (for each):
	1. name/role on project
	2. percent effort
	3. base salary/benefits
2. Consultants (per diem only)
3. Supplies/materials
4. Participant fees/costs (i.e., expenses per participant including travel, tests, payment for time)
5. Travel

Budget Justification:

For each category above briefly describe and provide justification for each item

Costs must be broken out for both UMHS and PUHSC participants. Lodging and other living expenses are to be borne by the home institutions of the visiting researchers.

1. **Evaluation of Project Proposals**

Proposals will be reviewed by two peer reviewers familiar with the content areas and funding environment in the U.S. and China respectively, and based on the following modified NIH criteria:

* Impact and significance of the work
* The potential leveraging of this work into extramural funding
* Qualifications of PIs/Mentors: appropriate to work proposed
* Appropriateness of research design and methodology
* Resources available to do the work

In addition, a major emphasis will be placed on the potential for meaningful collaboration that will be demonstrated by ongoing exchange, trust building, insights into the cultural differences in how research is executed, a willingness to work within the JI structure, and commitment to engaging in the collective work of the JI including an interest in the projects of others.

1. The JI Executive Committee (EC) will consolidate the review comments, review the proposals based on the additional criteria (below),and make recommendations to the JI Executive Board for approval.

Evaluation criteria:

* Synergy between UMHS and PUHSC
* Relevance to the objective of the collaboration
* Potential for external funding
* Cost-effectiveness
1. The JI Executive Board will review the proposals and recommendations from the JI EC and make final decisions. Awards are expected to be announced in May 2014.
2. **Project Review**

Funded projects will be reviewed at year-one and year-two of the funding period. The reviews will include assessments of scientific progress, progress toward long-term goals, and progress toward obtaining external funds.

Please direct any questions to:

Joseph C. Kolars, M.D.

Co-Director, UM-PUHSC Joint Institute Executive Committee
Senior Associate Dean for Education and Global Initiatives
Josiah Macy Jr Professor of Health Professions Education

University of Michigan Medical School jckolars@med.umich.edu

Weigang Fang, M.D., Ph.D.

Co-Director, UM-PUHSC Joint Institute Executive Committee
Vice President of Peking University Health Science Center
Professor of Physiology wgfang@bjmu.edu.cn

Amy Huang, M.D.

Director for China Programs

University of Michigan Medical School yanhuang@umich.edu

Qiudan Sun, M.S.

Co-lead, Collaboration Core
Associate Dean, Department of Applied Linguistics,
Director, Office of International Cooperation,
Professor of English, Department of Applied Linguistics
Peking University Health Science Center sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn