FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT – CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN MOVEMENT VARIABILITY Pilot Projects related to Harnessing Movement Variability to Treat and Prevent Motor Related Disorders Proposal Due Date: March 15, 2016

To: UNO Faculty; UNMC Physical Therapy Faculty; Creighton University Physical Therapy Faculty; Creighton University Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professions Faculty From: UNO-COBRE PI Dr. Nick Stergiou

Date: December 2015

The NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) awards provide funds for research infrastructure and pilot grants for investigators. Our COBRE award targets the investigation of the mechanisms of human movement variability in order to treat and prevent motor related disorders. Such investigation is multidisciplinary in nature encompassing biological and behavioral sciences, kinesiology, mathematics, engineering, clinical sciences and several others. The goal of the Pilot Project mechanism is to enhance the development of the research for an NIH New Investigator by providing support for research, the instrumentation necessary for cutting-edge biomedical research, supplies, and other associated expenses. The result from the development of this research infrastructure will be to provide opportunities for collaboration and to become involved in the biomedical research projects supported by the Center.

The COBRE Year 3 pilot research projects are intended to fund research for a one-year period from May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017. The one-year time period will allow a research team to develop more substantial independent external support from the NIH. Meritorious projects will be eligible for renewal for a second year. Use of the Biomechanics Research Building laboratories is encouraged but is not mandatory.

Eligibility

Each proposal must be submitted by a person that has either a UNO faculty appointment or a UNMC Physical Therapy faculty appointment or a Creighton Exercise Science faculty appointment or a Creighton Physical Therapy faculty appointment and is defined as an NIH New Investigator.

(<u>http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/#definition</u>).

Proposals from junior investigators are highly encouraged. Applicants must identify a suitable mentor and include the proposed mentor's official letter of agreement to participate. Mentors with prior experience as PIs on NIH funded grants are preferred. Mentors could be from any Nebraska institution (i.e. UNO, UNMC, UNL, and Creighton).

Budget

Up to \$50,000 per award may be requested. Typical pilot grant budgets will support graduate students or staff, as well as appropriate amounts for supplies, travel, etc. Each proposal must include a clear and concise budget justification. PI salary is not allowed as faculty release time for this work is expected to be provided as an institutional commitment. The budget should be reasonable in relation to the one year time-line. The applicants are encouraged to work with Dr. Stergiou to develop their budgets.

Review and Selection

Each COBRE Pilot Project will be evaluated in a two-step process. In the first step, proposals will be evaluated by faculty members from out of state institutions that perform research in human movement variability. The applications will be reviewed in the manner of an NIH study section. Proposals will be given six scores based on significance, investigators, innovation, approach, environment, and theme (especially as it pertains to the type of research being proposed in relation to the scientific theme of our COBRE award). They will then be given an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, as well is its chance of being developed into a full NIH proposal with a high likelihood of success. Scores are on a 1-9 scale, following the standard NIH guidelines for reviews of individual (R-type) research grants. In the second step, the scored proposals will be reviewed by the COBRE External Advisory Committee. Those proposals recommended by the EAC for funding will be submitted to NIH, for official approval. Projects may not begin until they have been approved by the NIH and until all required research compliance approvals are in place.

New investigators who do not have or have not previously had NIH funding as a PI are given priority over NIH funded junior faculty and more senior faculty. We anticipate funding at least three awards each COBRE budget period.

Major Review Criteria

As stated above, the review criteria used are the following: Significance, Innovation, Investigator(s), Approach, Environment, and Theme. To find detailed information about the first five criteria please see: page three on

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/p awards/P01 Guide for Reviewers a5.pdf.

Theme: Our Theme is Human Movement Variability: Will the project lead to additional research opportunities beyond the immediate goals of the COBRE? Does the project fit the theme of the Center?

Application

The attached application must be completely filled out. The PDF should be sent to COBRE Administrative Coordinator, Mrs. Angela Collins, at <u>afcollins@unomaha.edu</u> by 5PM CST on March 15th.

The application must include the following:

- 1. The attached Pilot Project Application
 - a. NIH face page, project summary and personnel
 - b. Specific Aims, limit one page
 - c. Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period
 - d. Budget Justification, one page
 - i. Remember that the budget page and budget justification must be reviewed and approved by Dr. Nick Stergiou prior to submission of the Pilot Project proposal.
 - e. Planned Enrollment Report
- 2. Biographical sketch(es) for PI and key personnel in NIH format, limit five pages
- 3. Research Strategy, limit six pages
 - a. As part of the Research Strategy also include a Progress report from previous support from this COBRE award (if applicable).
- 4. Protection of Human Subjects sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4
- 5. Letter of agreement from mentor to participate
- 6. NOTE: Submit IRB for approval the same month the proposal is submitted to avoid a delay in the initiation of the project.

For Guidance on the following proposal components, visit:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf

- 1. One Page of Specific Aims, page I-46
- 2. Pages of Research Strategy, pages I-46 & I-47
 - a. As part of the Research Strategy also include a Progress report from previous support from this COBRE award (if applicable), page I-47
- 3. Protection of Human Subjects sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4
- 4. Letter of agreement from mentor to participate

NOTE

For scientific inquiries and questions regarding the development of the application please contact Dr. Nick Stergiou at nstergiou@unomaha.edu or schedule a meeting through Angela Collins at 402-554-4486 or at afcollins@unomaha.edu.

PILOT PROJECT PRIOR NIH APPROVAL (JUST-IN-TIME):

In addition to the items above, if your project is selected for submission to NIH, then you also need to provide following items, as appropriate (**These items should be submitted within two weeks of notification**):

- 1. The IRB approval letter for this project (the IRB protocol and your Pilot Project grant must be the same title)
- 2. Current CITI training certifications for all key personnel listed on the Project Summary Form, (form page 2).
 - a. CITI certification must be the "Coursework Requirements Report" for "Group 2" and have the expiration date listed.
- 3. Other Support document
 - a. See Example at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

We encourage you to begin developing these items immediately upon submission of your Pilot Project proposal. If approved, we cannot submit your proposal to NIH without them and you will be unable to receive funding for your project.