VGN Project Award

Project Duration: One year

Eligibility: Faculty members who are full-time tenure track at Castleton University, Green Mountain College, Middlebury College, Northern Vermont University, Norwich University, or Saint Michael's College

Research must be in human health and behavior or genetics (broadly defined)

Funding Level and Allowable Expenses: Direct costs up to $75,000 per year may be requested. A requirement from NIH is that Project Award PIs spend on average 50% effort in research over the award year, which can divided into summer and academic year time. Permitted expenses include PI salary for summer and/or academic year, technicians, supplies, small equipment, undergraduate wages, participant costs and conference travel. Use of the funds must be outlined and justified as part of the application.

Review of Applications: The review of Project Award applications begins with the assignment of the application to at least two and preferably three outside reviewers. The reviewers are given the Request For Applications (RFA) and are asked to write a short response for each of the NIH review criteria (Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach and Environment). The NIH utilizes a 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional; 9 = poor) for all applications; the same scale is used for criterion scores and for the overall impact score.

Project Award Key Dates
Grant Writing Workshop Attendance **DATE: November 10, 2018**
In order to be eligible for 2019-2020 Project Award funding, faculty must attend the VGN Grant Writing Workshop at the University of Vermont.
Letter of Intent **DUE: December 3, 2018**
Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent to VGN with a working title and key words. VGN will distribute the template to those who attended the Grant Writing Workshop.
Application Due Date **DUE: February 1, 2019**

Project Award applications are submitted online via the VGN application site, which will be accessible beginning in early December 2018. Funding decisions are made and communicated to applicants by the end of March. Note that formatting must adhere to NIH standards as outlined on their website.

For the following application components, use the hyperlinked documents as provided. Please submit all documents in the PDF format.

All applicants must contact a federal Program Officer at an NIH Center or Institute to verify that the proposed research is fundable by the NIH. If this is a renewal application, the applicant's current research advisor must review the proposal before submission.

Application components include:

- Face Page
  (Face Page must be emailed to vgn@uvm.edu by February 5, 2019)
  - Must be signed by BPI Coordinator and institutional grants officials (boxes 12 and 13)
  - List direct costs only (boxes 7a, 7b, 8a and 8b)
  - Include eRA Commons User Name (box 3h)
  - Include NIH Center or Institute for the Research and the Name of a Program Officer
- Project Summary and Relevance
- Budget
  (Not to exceed one page)
  - List direct costs only
  - Must be reviewed by the institutional BPI Coordinator
- Budget Justification
  (Not to exceed three pages)
  - Must be reviewed by the institutional BPI Coordinator
- Research Plan
  (Not to exceed 11 pages, or 13 pages if applying for a renewal)
  - Specific Aims (not to exceed one page)
  - Progress Report (not to exceed two pages; only for renewal applications)
  - Research Strategy (not to exceed 10 pages)
  - Literature Cited (as many pages as needed)
- Research Resources and Environment
- Biosketch

Project Award Key Dates

- If applicable, IRB approvals*
    - PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
    - Institutional IRB approval letter (with specified dates for which the research is approved)
    - A copy of the approved research protocol
    - Current Human Subjects Education Certification
- If applicable, IACUC approvals*
    - Institutional IACUC approval letter (with specified dates for which the research is approved)
    - A copy of the approved research protocol
    - Vertebrate Animals Section
- Supporting documents (as applicable; e.g. Letters of Support, Equipment Quotes, etc.)

*IRB and IACUC approvals must be submitted with the application by the due date. **A proposal will not be reviewed with a pending status**.

Project Award Conditions

Completion of the following:

- A report describing your summer research progress and meetings with your research advisor due September 1, 2019.
- Individual Development Plan (IDP) due September 1, 2019.
- A telephone discussion of the IDP with the VGN Director, the PDE Core Director, and the BPI Coordinator.
- Annual VGN survey and periodic VGN longitudinal surveys.
- Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR).
- For PIs with no previous VGN Project or Pilot Award funding: Submit a draft of a research proposal to a federal or comparable extramural agency that your research advisor has reviewed by June 1, 2020.
- For PIs with previous VGN Project or Pilot Award funding: Submit a research proposal to a federal or comparable extramural agency that your research advisor has reviewed by June 1, 2020.

Attendance at the following:

- Annual VGN Career Day for students on April 3, 2019 and in April 2020.
- VGN Professional Development Seminar in Spring 2020.
- Annual VGN Faculty Retreat on July 31, 2019 and in Summer 2020.