ANNOUNCEMENT: APPLICATIONS FOR V.A. 2015-YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARDS (YIA)

Date: 3/17/15  The VA Medical Research Service at the Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center requests the applications for small research grants. A maximum of 2 awards of $20,000-$30,000 each will be awarded from funding provided by the Indiana Institute for Medical Research (IIMR.)

Applicants:

--should be qualified VA investigators (MD, DO, or PhD/RPh) with academic ranks not exceeding assistant professor, and no current or prior history as Principal Investigators or awardees of NIH or VA funding.

--should be 5/8 compensated employees and should NOT be IPA/WOC unless the applicants have the intention of becoming 5/8 compensated VA PIs. (Please contact Mary Gray is you have questions regarding this item.)

--should focus their proposals on discrete projects intended to produce preliminary data in support of future applications for VA Career Development Awards or VA Merit Review grants. (The Applicants must remain qualified to apply for VA funding throughout the funding period.)

Proposals will be scored by a panel of 2 or more reviewers with results expected by May 2015. Clinical relevance and significance to the Veteran population will be considered in assigning priorities. Awards will not be made for purposes of providing bridge funding. If the application is intended to provide support for generating additional preliminary data for a previously unfunded VA or NIH grant application, the score and percentile and reviewers‘ comments should be provided.

Applications should consist of:

--a face page with title and name of investigator and department;

--a curriculum vita (NIH biosketch will suffice);
--a **narrative** limited to 5 pages, to include Specific Aims, Background, Preliminary Results, and Work Proposed. (References are excluded from the page limit.)

--**Figures and tables** can be submitted as appendices.

--A **budget sheet**, detailing proposed expenditures, is required.

-- **Supporting documents** should include a one page summary that outlines the candidate’s career plans and how the proposed project will promote them, and details of what support is currently available (external funding, space, equipment, mentors.) **Letters from VA mentors must be provided** and included in this section of the application, and letters from collaborators are encouraged. (Letters from department chairpersons or division directors are not required.)

The **proposed work should begin within 3 months of the award notification date** and **be completed within 18 months** of that date. It is required that approvals will be obtained from the IRB (Institutional Review Board), the IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use) Committee, and the Bio-safety Committee as appropriate, once the award has been announced. All funded projects require approval by the V.A. Research and Development Committee. Funding may not begin until approvals are completed. **Annual progress reports** must be submitted to the IIMR at Mary.Gray1@va.gov.

**Funds will be returned** to the IIMR if the investigator ceases to be eligible for VA funding or if they have not been expended at the end of the award period. A six month extension to complete the project may be requested through the IIMR at the time of the annual report. Following completion of a funded study, the principal investigator will be responsible for submitting a **report of the work accomplished**.

A **summary** of the Eligibility, Application Requirements and Award is attached to this announcement.
DEADLINES:

INTENT TO SUBMIT: 5/04/2015. Send tentative title and topic to Mary.Gray1@va.gov

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DUE: 5/18/2015 Send a single PDF to Mary.Gray1@va.gov

ANTICIPATED AWARD NOTIFICATION: AFTER 7/15/2015

ANTICIPATED FUNDING INITIATION: 7/27/2015

For additional information contact Mary Gray, Exec. Director, IIMR at Mary.Gray1@va.gov or Thomas Sharp, MD, IIMR Chair, Thomas.sharp@va.gov.