*Program Overview & Application Instructions*

# OCSSB
# Pilot Project Funding Opportunities
# Call for Proposals
Deadline: March 15, 2013

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of the OCSSB Pilot Project funding mechanism is to cultivate outstanding spatial systems research by assisting in the generation of preliminary data for peer-reviewed national funding, career development proposals, and program project submissions.  Scientific excellence will be the key review element for all applications. Interdisciplinary research, in which investigators from disparate scientific areas collaborate to bring together unique approaches, is required.  Proposals that focus on multi-spectral imaging or electron microscopy (and take advantage of instrumentation in the FEI Living Laboratory) are especially encouraged.

Awards: Multiple ~$50,000 (direct costs per year for up to 2 years) proposals will be selected for funding for one year, and may be renewed for a second year (another ~50K), after review of progress.

Eligibility: Investigators at the rank of research assistant professor or higher.  Pilot grants are intended to support new and innovative projects. Projects may be an extension of other work, but cannot overlap with any funded project or be used as bridging support for projects for which funding has lapsed. We encourage applications from young investigators with no other sources to fund these pilot projects, and from senior investigators, with the purpose to foster collaborative exploration of new areas and ideas with high potential for impact in the clinic, including incorporation of emerging technology.

Allowable costs:  Personnel, supplies and other expenses, such as core services are allowed. Investigator salary may be requested, but clear justification as to why it is necessary for direct support of the research, should be provided. Equipment that is essential for the study, and is not otherwise available, may be requested.

Key Dates

Application deadline:  Friday, March 15, 2013, 5:00 pm (Pacific)

Presentations of all applications: exact date/time to be scheduled (week of March 18th)

Funding decision: April 30, 2013

Project begins: July 1, 2013

Submission Details:
Applications should be submitted by email to the OCSSB via Norene Jelliffe jelliffe@ohsu.edu.
Include the following Subject line:  "OCSSB Pilot Project Application".

Questions:
Please direct all questions to Heidi Feiler 503-494-7707, feiler@ohsu.edu.

**Application Requirements**

Proposals should be in the following format. The proposals and presentations of the project (10 minutes each; to be scheduled the week of March 18th) will be reviewed by the Review Committee (described below). Incorporation of the following points will be important to judge the compelling nature of your proposal.

1. **Cover Letter** (1 page maximum) should address each of the following:

   - Theme (one line)
   - Significance and innovation of the proposed research
   - Uniqueness (why should it be attempted within OCSSB)
   - Personnel and Role on project
   - Collaborative aspects of the project
   - Other active funding available for the project
   - Plans for future grant submissions utilizing data from the proposal

2. **Research Proposal** – One page, following *Format Specifications* below and including:

   - Background and Significance
   - Research approaches
   - Specific Goals / Deliverables (specific, quantitative and focused)
   - Proposed timeline for completion of the goals within the one year funding period
   - Preliminary findings (if warranted)
   - Budget Justification & summary of expenses
   - Literature Cited (does not count against the 1-page limit)

3. **Format Specifications**. All applications <u>must</u> adhere to the following guidelines:

   a. Font

      - Use Arial 11 point.
      - Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch.
      - Type may be no more than six lines per inch.
      - Use black ink that can be clearly copied.

   b. Page Margins

      - Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages, including continuation pages.

   c. Application Paging

      - The application must be single-spaced.
      - Consecutively number pages.

   d. Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes

      - You may use a smaller type size but it must be in black ink, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement.
      - Do not include figures or other materials that are not inserted directly into the body of the application.

4. **Review Process**

   Project proposals will be reviewed by OCSSB representatives. This committee is broadly representative of the OCSSB and BME, and is made up of experienced, funded investigators with expertise in evaluating research proposals. Several reviewers will read each proposal and all members of the committee will discuss them. Overall scores (using the NIH scale) will be given by each committee member and mean scores will be calculated for each proposal.

   Each proposal will be evaluated for **Overall scientific excellence**

   i. Are the conceptual framework and goals, study design, methodology, data analysis and interpretation, etc., of high scientific quality?

   ii. A priority for the OCSSB is to stimulate collaborative research. Multidisciplinary collaboration among scientists of diverse backgrounds is essential.

   iii. Do the investigators have the appropriate expertise to complete the project?

   a. **Significance and Impact (33%)**

      iv. Does this study address an important problem?

      v. If the aims are achieved, will preliminary data be achieved to support program project level grant submissions?

   b. **Innovation (33%)**

      vi. Will this proposal provide results that are novel and likely to open new avenues of investigation?

      vii. Is the proposal in an exciting new direction apart from the work already ongoing in the investigator's research group?

      viii. Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

   c. **Likelihood of leading to national funding or career development proposals (33%)**

      ix. The purpose of this funding mechanism is to cultivate outstanding spatial systems research by assisting in the generation of preliminary data for peer-reviewed national funding, career development proposals, and program project submissions.

      x. All applicants should describe how the proposed studies are related to future funding plans.

5. **Awardee Responsibilities**

   a. A Proposed Project Questionnaire (PPQ) is not required at the time of application; however, awardees will be required to submit a signed PPQ.

   b. IRB and IACUC approval (if needed) are required prior to release of funds.

   c. A summary report describing project accomplishments must be submitted at the end of each fiscal year, until all funds are used. Within 60 days of the expiration of the grant period, the principal investigator shall submit a two page report of the research conducted which will include (1) a list of all publications and IP resulting from the project, (2) plans to further develop the project and (3) a statement of how the project will lead (or has led) to external funding (include grant applications applied for and funded that extended from this work). The report will also include a separate half page summary written for the lay public suitable to transmission to the donor.