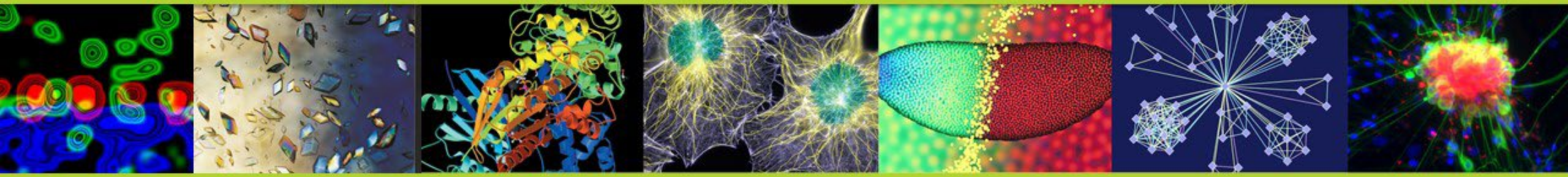
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

# COBRE Phase 2 Pre-application Webinar

## May 12, 2022
## 3:00 – 4:30 PM



# NIGMS Staff Participation

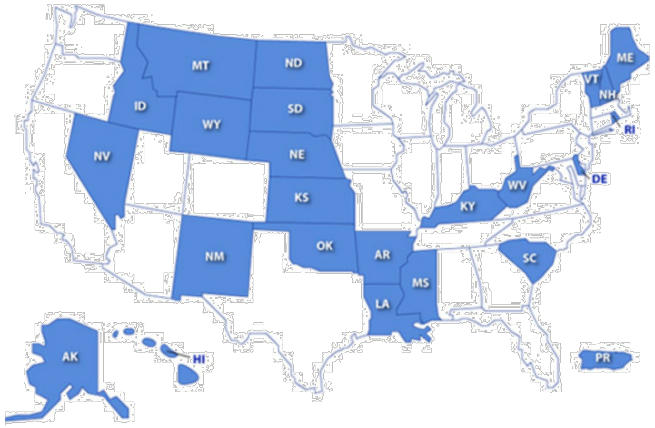
- **Michele McGuirl**, Chief, Research Advancement Programs Branch
- **Fed Bernal**, Program Officer and COBRE Phase 2 Lead
- **Nina Sidorova**, Scientific Review Officer
- **Samantha Farrell**, Grants Management Specialist

**Q&A via Chat Window, moderated by Michele McGuirl**

# Overview of IDeA COBRE Program

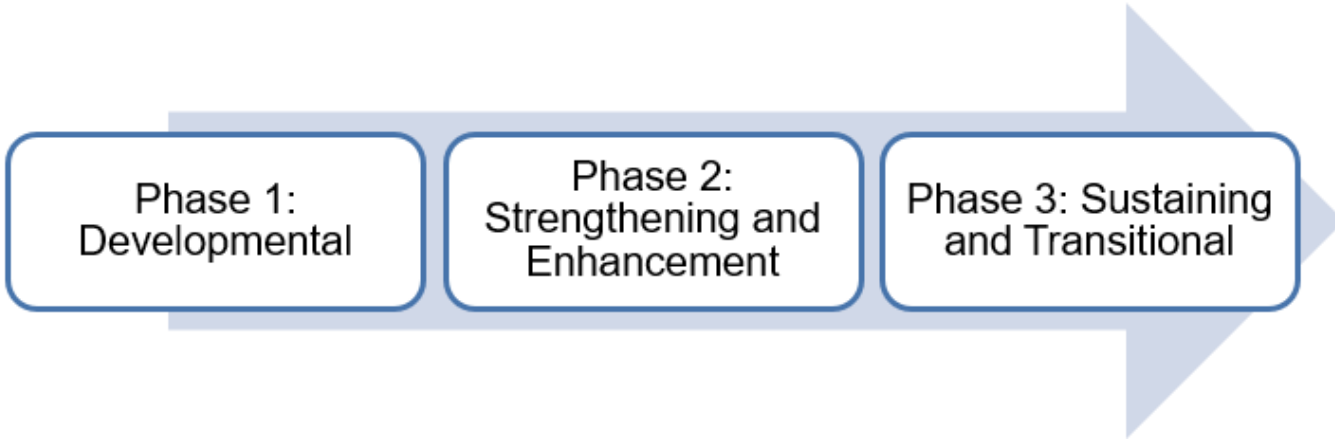
## IDeA Program

Build research capacity in states and territories with lower levels of NIH funding




## Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)

- Support a broadly themed research center
- **129** distinct COBRE awards
- 3 sequential phases, 5 years each
- IDeA Dashboard tracks all funded awards






https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/DRCB/Pages/DRCB-IDeA-Interactive-Portfolio-Dashboard.aspx

# Renewal of Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) - Phase 2 (P20 Clinical Trial Optional)

## PAR-22-163

## due date: September 27, 2022

| FY | Phase 1 | | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Due Date | Council | Due Date | Council | Due Date | Council |
| 2022 | January 27, 2021 | October 2021 | September 28. 2021 | May 2022 | May 28, 2021 | January 2022 |
| 2023 | January 27, 2022 | October 2022 | **September 27, 2022** | **May 2023** | May 27, 2022 | January 2023 |
| 2024 | January 26, 2023 | October 2023 | May 30, 2023 | January 2024 | September 26, 2023 | May 2024 |
| 2025 | January 25, 2024 | October 2024 | May 28, 2024 | January 2025 | September 24, 2024 | May 2025 |
| 2026 | January 30, 2025 | October 2025 | May 27, 2025 | January 2026 | September 30, 2024 | May 2026 |

***CURRENT FOA: PAR-22-163***

***FOA in preparation***

# COBRE Phase 2: Program Objectives

***Continue*** **the development of a critical mass of investigators with expertise in the Center's scientific interest areas**

- Support Research Projects within in the COBRE's scientific area
- Get RPLs ready to compete for peer-reviewed external funding

***Strengthen*** **the Center through further improvement in research infrastructure**

- Support existing or establish new core facilities that are essential to support the research of the Center
- No Alterations and Renovations are allowed for Phase 2

# General Considerations Before Applying

- **Read the FOA –APPLY AS A RENEWAL!**
- **COBREs are NOT P01s**
  - The PI receives salary support (minimum LOE of 3 months) but not research support from the COBRE– a service to the institution that deserves recognition and support
- **COBREs are NOT training grants**
- **Communicate with institutional leaders**
  - Success of the COBRE is dependent on institutional commitments
- **Leverage other NIH-supported resources, especially current COBRE, INBRE, and IDeA-CTR programs at your institution/state**
  - Cores should not be duplicative of existing resources

# PD/PI Eligibility (applies to all PD/PIs if MPI COBRE)

**Established biomedical or behavioral research scientist**

- Must have mentoring and administrative experience to lead the COBRE
- Must be a faculty member at the applicant institution at the time of submission
- PD/PI may be the current Phase 1 PD/PI or a different one may be appointed

**PD/PI of an active, peer-reviewed *research* grant awarded to the applicant institution and related to the COBRE scientific area at the time of submission**

- Qualifying research grant can be from federal or non-federal sources
- Current and Pending Support Attachment ***required*** –used to determine PD/PI eligibility
- For MPI COBRE applications, each PI must meet the eligibility requirements. See the FOA for specifics.

# Research Project Leader (RPL) Eligibility

**RPLs must hold an independent faculty appointment (or equivalent) at the time of submission**

- Includes tenure-track and other types of ***multi-year*** appointments
- Postdocs and others without independent appointments are not eligible
- More than half must be appointed at the applicant institution

**RPLs must qualify as either an NIH Early Stage Investigator (ESI) or as a New Investigator (NI)** ***—NEW IN PHASE 2—***

- ESI: PI who completed terminal research degree or post-graduate clinical training (whichever is later) within the past 10 years ***and*** has not previously competed successfully for a substantial NIH independent research award.
- NI: PI who has not previously competed successfully for a substantial NIH independent research award

# Application Requirements - Overall

## Overall Plan for the Center

- **Program Accomplishments** during COBRE Phase 1 support
- **Center Organization and Management Plan**
- **Plan for an Advisory Committee (AC)** ***—NEW IN PHASE 2—***

  Three external members, one senior institutional official, and one senior faculty member appointed by the senior institutional official
- **Mentoring Plan** for RPLs
- **Evaluation Plan** for the Center
- **Letter** that outlines the institutional commitment of resources to support the COBRE throughout Phase 2 and to maintain these resources beyond the period of grant support

# Application Requirements for Cores

## Administrative Core

- Management plan that covers administrative, fiscal, and scientific aspects; should include an RPL Development Plan
- Pilot Projects Program (optional; open to faculty at all ranks, ESI/NI preferred) –*do not include research plans for individual projects*
- Faculty recruitment (all ranks) funds are available (up to $400K in annual DC)

## Research Cores (Optional)

- Core Directors must have appropriate expertise and experience to manage the Core
- Using/modifying/expanding existing resources is encouraged but duplication is not
- Cores should support the RPL projects and the scientific theme
- Page limit reduced to six pages for each Research Core ***—NEW IN PHASE 2—***

# Application Requirements for Research Projects

**Research Projects –not an R01**

- Six pages to describe research question, approach, and connection to COBRE scientific area
- Preliminary data are helpful but not required – reviewers gauge this by career stage
- Milestones: RPLs are ***required*** to submit a research grant application by the end of their second year on the award. RPLs are ***expected*** to get a research grant and graduate from COBRE funding by the end of the third year of COBRE support.

**Must include 2 - 5 Research Projects**

- Avoid naming RPLs who are proposed/supported as RPLs on other COBREs
- Projects should make good use of the Research Cores
- Identify any new areas for scientific growth with appropriate mentorship

# Important Details for Research Projects

**Individualized Letter of Support from home institution for each RPL is *required***

- Written by Dean, Provost, or another Senior Official
- Must demonstrate multi-year commitment to the RPL whether or not the COBRE is funded
- Examples of strong institutional commitment: start-up package, independent research space

**Request 5 years of support for each RPL *slot* so that the replacement RPL can be funded after the initial one graduates**

- An RPL's research plan, timeline, and budget is for 3 years total RPL support (Phases 1+2)
- Remaining budget years are designated as placeholders for replacement RPLs
- Make it clear that the RPL will continue after Year 3 with independent grant support
- Also address this in the Budget Justification

# The COBRE Review Process

**Nina Sidorova, PhD**

**Sonia Ortiz-Miranda, PhD**

**Scientific Review Branch**

# STEP 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- Review of all COBRE applications is organized by the NIGMS Scientific Review Branch (SRB)
- All applications go through Administrative Review by the Program Officers and Scientific Review Officers
- All applications deemed non-compliant/not eligible are withdrawn

**To avoid your application from being withdrawn:**

- **Read and follow the instructions in the current FOA carefully!**
- Try to apply a few days prior to the deadline, check your application, and make corrections if needed

# STEP 2 – SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

## Applications are divided among Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs)

- Number of panels depends on the number of applications
- Reviewer Orientation Meetings: same material is given to all reviewers

## Reviewer Assignments

- At least three reviewers are assigned to each application – usually more
  - Overall: three primary reviewers
  - At least two reviewers are assigned to each of the components
    - Administrative Core, Research Cores, Individual Research Projects

## Process

Assigned reviewers comment on each component, then the panel discusses the Overall

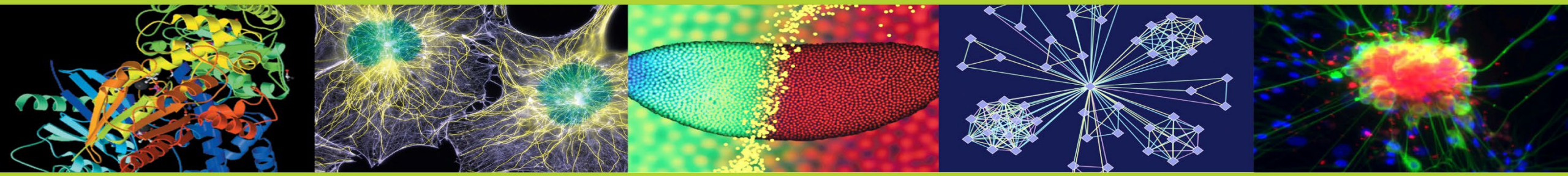
**Voting: All panel members vote on the Overall Center only (not individual components)**

# Preparation Advice to Applicants

- **Read the FOA's review criteria** – the critique templates contain these criteria/questions
- **DO NOT duplicate** letters of support. Avoid including letters of support that do not add substance – it can limit the pool of reviewers
- **List the names of people submitting letters** for each of the components
- **Include the Core or Project Title at** the beginning of each component summary. Reviewers have access to full applications **but not in Recruitment Phase** when only summaries are available.
- **Use the PHS Assignment form** to indicate expertise needed but **DO NOT** suggest reviewer names. You may provide names of those who **SHOULD NOT** review your application.

# Additional Information about the Review

- Reviewers will evaluate the progress and outcomes of Phase 1 and will have access to the Phase 1 Summary Statement to cross-reference the original goals
- The outcomes for Phase 1 RPLs should be detailed and include grant applications submitted/awarded, presentations at meetings, publications, tenure/promotion, currently held positions
- Projects from RPLs continuing from Phase 1 and from new RPLs should fit within the scientific area of the COBRE and make effective use of the Research Cores
- Cores should continue to develop strong user bases that include RPLs, PPLs, COBRE personnel, and others at the institution and beyond

# Thank you!

Please enter your questions into the chat box.