

National Institutes of Health Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program

The Institutional Development Award Program (IDeA), established in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Revitalization Act of 1993, serves biomedical researchers by investing in biomedical infrastructure in Puerto Rico and 23 states that have not historically received significant levels of NIH support. Funding is distributed through a merit review process with the expectation that recipient institutions' states will develop their biomedical research capacity and research competitiveness.

Nationally, IDeA investigators have garnered more than \$1.5 billion in NIH funding that has produced breakthroughs in post-traumatic stress disorder, asthma, stroke, dementia, multiple sclerosis, cancer and other diseases and disorders. IDeA states have established new centers for clinical and basic research.

The Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) programs increase the number of well-trained investigators in IDeA states by expanding research facilities, equipping laboratories with the latest research equipment, providing mentoring for promising investigators, and developing research faculty by supporting multi-disciplinary centers led by established, expert senior investigators.

The IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) programs increase the pipeline of outstanding students and enhance the quality of science faculty in IDeA states through research-intensive networking at undergraduate institutions. The INBRE program supports research infrastructure and mentoring of young investigators, preparing students for graduate and professional schools and careers in the biomedical sciences.

The University of Idaho has two active COBRE project awards and an INBRE network award which have catalyzed development of biomedical research capacity at the university and across the state.

Idaho INBRE program

The Idaho INBRE program has received nearly \$44 million cumulatively since it was awarded in 2001. The program has built a statewide biomedical research network and increased Idaho's competitiveness for new biomedical research dollars, mentored faculty and students, and prepared a workforce skilled in science technologies. Idaho INBRE funding has provided research opportunities for nearly 1148 undergraduate students, 186 graduate students, 21 post-docs and over 342 faculty across the state. Outreach programs have reached more than 30,000 K-12 students in Idaho schools.

COBRE: Center for Research on Processes in Evolution Research

Idaho's current COBRE program has received \$21.6 million since it was awarded in 2002. The Center of Biomedical Research Excellence for Research on Processes in Evolution at the University of Idaho is



organized under the auspices of the Institute for Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies (IBEST).

For the past 10 years, COBRE funding enabled IBEST investigators to conduct leading-edge interdisciplinary research in computational and evolutionary biology and to mentor early faculty to develop nationally competitive, independently funded research programs. Faculty who graduate to independent funding remain in the highly collaborative community of IBEST.

The Computational Resources Core and Genomics Resources Core facilities established as part of this COBRE provide an array of advanced instrumentation and computational resources, as well as technical support to investigators. These core facilities currently support 28 funded projects. Thus, COBRE funding has had the intended effect of strengthening the institution's biomedical research capabilities and cultivating the supportive research environment needed to be competitive for external funding. Many of these projects are interdisciplinary collaborations between biologists and mathematicians, statisticians or computer scientists, and require the resources of both core facilities.

This final phase of COBRE funding, along with institutional investments in IBEST as a strategic Institute, will ensure self-sustainability and maintain the infrastructure, climate, funding and personnel needed for a vibrant biomedical research program focused on processes of evolution.

Funding Recommendations

The Institutional Development Award should keep pace with National Institutes of Health increases and ultimately represent at least 1 percent of NIH funding. In FY 2012, IDeA is budgeted at \$276 million, a \$50 million increase, targeted primarily at COBREs.

In FY2014 we recommend you:

- Keep INBRE and COBRE the focus of the IDeA program.
- Support IDeANet, a cyber-connectivity program to ensure that researchers and students in IDeA states have sufficient Internet connections to expand opportunities for research training and competitiveness.
- Expand the impact of the IDeA by allowing the programs to be nimble.
- Respond to current program needs by adding initiatives focused on cyberinfrastructure, research training, and recruitment and retention of talented researchers

For more information, please contact:

John K. "Jack" McIver, Vice President for Research and Economic Development
vpresearch@uidaho.edu | 208.885.6689 | www.uidaho.edu/research/federal-relations