Request for Pilot Grant Proposals

The Center for Engineering and Health is seeking project proposals to promote joint research between McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science and Feinberg School of Medicine in the area of Public Health and Healthcare delivery. Proposed projects may include a range of health informatics and analytical technologies to improve public health. Proposals that involve a coupling of physical and cyber systems are also encouraged.

To qualify, investigators must be full time Northwestern University faculty. The Pilot Grant Program is designed to support projects that are innovative and have the potential to generate externally funded grants. A major aim is to catalyze engineering and health collaborative research within the Northwestern community. The proposals may request up to one year of graduate student fellowship.

Review Criteria: Ideal proposals will clearly demonstrate the following elements:

- Innovation and novelty of proposed research
- Strong potential to lead to meaningful impact on public health or healthcare - successful proposals will provide a clear description of this impact.
- Clear objectives, a detailed timeline, anticipated results and outcome measures
- Research methods that are sound and feasible within the scope of the budget.
- A plan to secure future funding from other sources upon completion of the project.

The deadline to submit full applications requesting fellowships are as follows:

Fall Quarter – August 12th, 2013 by midnight
Winter Quarter – November 11th, 2013 by midnight
Spring Quarter – February 17th, 2014 by midnight
Summer Quarter – May 19th, 2014 by midnight

Please submit applications to IPHAM-CEH@northwestern.edu. If you have questions about this RFP, please contact Sanjay Mehrotra, Professor, Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences, Director, Center for Engineering and Health, mehrotra@iems.northwestern.edu or 847 491 3155.

About the Center for Engineering and Health

The Center for Engineering and Health is part of the Institute for Public Health & Medicine at Feinberg School of Medicine. The Center for Engineering and Health aims to promote dry lab public health and healthcare delivery research by bringing together engineering investigators with health services researchers, clinician-investigators, epidemiologists, and administrators. The Center for Engineering and Health has specific programs focused to promote research in Health Data Analytics, Behavior Intervention Technologies, Medical Decision Making, and Healthcare Engineering.

For more information about the Center for Engineering and Health, please visit http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/ipham/centers/engineering-health.html
Proposal Instructions:

The following (Items 1-4) should not exceed 5 pages.

1) Project Overview:
   a) Principal Investigator:
   b) Co-investigators/Collaborators:

2) Project Title

3) Specific Aims (Approx. 1/2 page)
   a) State concisely the goals and objective of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

4) Research Strategy (Use the following headings)
   a) Significance (Approx. 1/2 page)
      i) Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
      ii) Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
      iii) Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
   b) Innovation (Approx 1/2 page)
      i) Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
      ii) Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
      iii) Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
   c) Approach (Approx. 3 pages)
      i) Describe the overall development and/or experimental strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
      ii) If the project involves early development, describe any strategy to establish usability, feasibility of the intervention and/or trial procedures, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
      iii) Include a detailed timeline.
      iv) Describe in detail how this pilot project will directly lead to the pursuit of future research funding.
   d) Preliminary studies (Approx ½ page)
      i) Discuss the PI’s preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application.