LIMITED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

TO: BUMC Faculty
FROM: Andrew W. Taylor, PhD, Associate Dean of Research, BUSM
DATE: Jan. 31, 2019

SUBJECT: NSF - Innovation Corps Hubs Program (I-CorpsTM Hubs)

OBJECTIVES: The National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Corps Hubs Program (I-CorpsTM Hubs) seeks to further develop and nurture a national innovation ecosystem that guides the output of scientific discoveries closer to the development of technologies, products, and services that benefit society. The goal of the NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Program, created in 2011 by NSF, has been and will continue to be to reduce the time and risk associated with translating promising ideas and technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace. The I-Corps Program utilizes experiential learning of customer and industry discovery, coupled with first-hand investigation of industrial processes, to quickly assess the translational potential of inventions. The I-Corps Program is designed to support the commercialization of so-called "deep technologies," or those revolving around fundamental discoveries in science and engineering. The I-Corps program addresses the skill and knowledge gap associated with the transformation of basic research into deep technology ventures (DTVs).

In the program's initial phase, I-Corps Nodes and Sites were funded separately to serve as the backbone of the National Innovation Network (NIN). Previous solicitations for NSF I-Corps Nodes and NSF I-Corps Sites have now been archived. This new solicitation for I-Corps Hubs has been informed by feedback received from the community and lessons learned over the first eight years of the program.

In 2017, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA, Public Law 114-329, Sec. 601) formally authorized and directed the expansion of the NSF I-Corps Program. Through this solicitation, NSF seeks to evolve the current structure, in which NSF I-Corps Teams, Nodes, and Sites are funded through separate programs, toward a more integrated operational model capable of sustained operation at the scope and scale required to support the expansion of the NSF I-Corps Program as directed by AICA. In this more integrated model, I-Corps Hubs, comprising a Principal and at least two Partner institutions, form the backbone of the NIN, and each Hub has at least five Affiliates that extend the network to other institutions. Each Hub is funded through a single award. Throughout this solicitation, the term "Hub" refers to all associated organizations identified in a proposal responding to this solicitation, including the Principal, Partners, and Affiliates.

FUNDING INFORMATION: up to $3,000,000 for 5 years

INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS: BU Medical Campus interested faculty should submit the following materials listed below via InfoReady Review by Friday, Feb. 21. If you are a BMC
investigator and wish to apply for this opportunity, please contact Jennifer Fleming, Director of Foundation Relations and Government Grants at jennifer.fleming@bmc.org.

- Questions outlined in InfoReady Review application
- A letter of recommendation from the appropriate department chair or dean
- A brief statement (up to 2 pages) by the candidate describing their scientific achievements and proposed project including proposed faculty and how the program will support diversity;
- A brief budget outline for the proposed project
- Up-to-date CV or NIH biosketch.

A faculty committee drawn from both campuses will review internal proposals and select nominees.

**DEADLINES:**
- **Internal Deadline:** Friday, Feb. 21
- **Sponsor Deadline:** Tuesday, April 14

In requesting to be considered for this limited submission funding opportunity, you are making a commitment, if selected, to submit your proposal to the sponsor in a timely manner and to Sponsored Programs in accordance with the Proposal Submission Policy.