OBJECTIVES: The NIH NIDCR Mentoring Network to Support a Diverse Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research Workforce / Research Education Projects Cooperative Agreements Program (UE5) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this NIDCR UE5 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce. The major goal of this program is to establish a mentoring network that will facilitate a diverse pool of early career investigators, including those from groups identified as underrepresented (see NOT-OD-18-210), to advance their research careers and/or transition to the next career stage and to develop a high quality independently funded research program. This FOA invites applications from senior faculty, experienced mentors and experienced researchers to develop and direct a mentoring network for eligible early career investigators (post-doctorates and junior faculty) to foster a career trajectory towards independent dental, oral and craniofacial health research.

To accomplish the stated overarching goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on Mentoring Activities and Courses for Skills Development.

Proposed programs are expected to contribute to the development of a skilled cadre of investigators in requisite scientific research areas to advance the objectives of the NIDCR Strategic Plan.

FUNDING INFORMATION: NIDCR intends to commit $300,000 in FY2020 to fund one award. Application budgets may not exceed direct costs of $250,000 per year. The maximum project period is five years.

ELIGIBILITY: The PD/PI should be a senior faculty member and have a strong track record as an NIH funded investigator, educator and experienced mentor, and should be capable of directing the NIDCR mentoring network program and of providing mentorship and professional research career education experiences to participants, including individuals from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences (see NOT-OD-18-210).

If a PD/PI team is proposed, members must have experience and leadership in mentoring and should have a strong record of providing mentorship and professional research career education experiences to individuals underrepresented in the biomedical sciences (see NOT-OD-18-210). For example, a PD/PI with strong scientific experience and expertise could partner with a PD/PI who has mentorship and leadership experience to fulfill the requirements for leadership of this program.

INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS: BU, BUMC, and BMC may submit applications to this program. Interested applicants should email the following materials combined into a single pdf file to Diana Lehman at dlehman@bu.edu by Tuesday, March 26, 2019:

- Letter of recommendation from the appropriate Department Chair or a senior researcher
- A brief (one-page) statement by the candidate describing his or her significant scientific work and immediate research plans
- Up-to-date CV

An internal review committee drawn from medical campus faculty will review internal proposals and select the final candidates for each institution.

**DEADLINES:**
- **Internal Deadline:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019
- **Sponsor LOI Deadline:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019
- **Sponsor Application Deadline:** Thursday, May 30, 2019.

*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.*

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