**RFA for Inter-Institutional Collaborative Research on Premature Birth**

**Collaborative Studies among Researchers at University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and Duke University**

The intention of this award mechanism is to stimulate new collaborative research programs addressing premature birth. Applications for this award:

* Must include investigators from at least two of the three sites (UChicago, Northwestern, and Duke).
* Must address a novel question related to mechanisms of spontaneous preterm birth.
* Will require post-review approval from the Chicago-Northwestern-Duke Prematurity Research Center (PRC) before funds are released.

It is permissible to submit pending NIH applications, though dual funding of identical projects will not be allowed. Neither faculty salary recovery nor indirect costs will be allowed for any institution.

Up to $30,000/participating institution will be awarded for each one-year project. Full applications must be submitted.

**Who qualifies?**

Junior investigators such as Instructors, Assistant Professors or Research Associates (Assistant Professors), who are not currently funded by a major (R01 or equivalent) grant.

**Initiation of discussions for building a collaborative team**

Please contact Dr. Bill Grobman at Northwestern ([w-grobman@northwestern.edu](mailto:w-grobman@northwestern.edu)) with questions.

For identifying potential collaborators, please contact Dr. Amy Murtha at Duke (amy.murtha@duke.edu) and Dr. Carole Ober ([c-ober@genetics.uchicago.edu](mailto:c-ober@genetics.uchicago.edu)) at U of C.

**Submission Process**: Full applications should consist of a single PDF file and a separate Excel budget on the required template:

1. Lay Summary/Abstract (limited to 250 words)
2. A paragraph (limited to 250 words) addressing novelty, innovation and significance
3. A 4-page NIH-style research proposal including Specific Aims (1 page), and Research Plan (3 pages, including Significance, Innovation, and Approach). The significance section should address how the proposed research could immediately or eventually influence the prevention of preterm birth
4. If the project involves human subjects, please include the following (outside of 7-page limitation):

* Data Safety Monitoring Plan (summary paragraph), if relevant
* IRB protocol or submission forms if not already IRB approved

1. A paragraph describing the nature and development of the collaboration between investigators at the two or three partner sites, and how you will work together to carry out the project.
2. NIH biosketch for all investigators involved in the project
3. Other Support, including active, pending applications and any overlap with current proposal submitted for all investigators involved in the project
4. Budget justification for all items requested within the budget template (see below). Requests for salary support must be detailed. Budgets for non-University of Chicago organizations should account for the organization’s staff benefits. No indirect costs are allowed for any institution.
5. Letters of support from two mentors for applications from Instructors or Assistant Professors.
6. A paragraph describing how the proposed research will improve the likelihood of future extramural funding

**Detailed budget (see provided template).** Direct costs are limited to $30,000 at each participating institution.

**SELECTION, REVIEW, AND EVALUATION AND TRACKING**

Selection Criteria:

1. Novelty, innovation, and multidisciplinary aspects of project
2. Scientific merit for breakthroughs in translational research
3. Likelihood that the proposal will result in independent extramural funding, or will contribute significantly to the scientific direction of the C-N-D PRC
4. The absence of other active funding for the project
5. Applicant’s potential for an independent career in clinical/translational research
6. Demonstration that the proposed research should have an eventual impact on our understanding of the causes, etiology or prevention of preterm



By the end of 12 months of the award, the recipient may be requested to present at a scientific seminar summarizing the research at the investigator’s institution.

Awardees must provide contact information for up to 10 years following awards, as the funding and publication success of recipients must be followed during this period. Application of women, individuals with disabilities, and members of underrepresented groups is encouraged.