**Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):**

**CHIP-School of Dental Medicine Dual-PI Seed Grants**

**for Collaborative Research in Dental Health and Health Behavior FY16**

Issued September 10, 2015

**A. KEY DATES**

- September 10, 2015: FOA posted; earliest submission date
- Thursday, November 5, 2015: Networking Event
- Friday, December 11, 2015: Letters of Intent (required) due by 11:59 PM EST
- Friday, December 18, 2015: Applicants notified of LOI approval decision
- Friday, December 11, 2015: CHIP Affiliate Application due by 11:59 PM EST
- Friday, February 12, 2016: Full proposals due by 11:59 PM EST
- April 2016: Applicants notified of award decision
- July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018: Award period
- December 31, 2018: Deadline for resulting dual-PI NIDCR grant submission

**B. PURPOSE**

The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at UConn Storrs and the School of Dental Medicine (SDM) at UConn Health invite proposals for new research initiatives at the intersection of dental health and health behavior, undertaken jointly by two investigators: one appointed at the Storrs or regional campuses who is a CHIP affiliate, and one appointed at the UConn School of Dental Medicine. The ultimate goal of the **CHIP-School of Dental Medicine Dual-PI Seed Grants** is to support interdisciplinary pilot research that will lead to strong future dual-PI external grant applications to be submitted to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) through CHIP and the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

**C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS**

Two awards of $25,000 are available to award for this seed grant competition. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP and the School of Dental Medicine.

Seed grant funds may only be used for direct costs of carrying out approved projects, such as:

- Personnel who are essential for conducting the research project, such as graduate research assistants, research staff, and student labor. Individuals who are not on the regular state payroll (i.e., consultants and other off-campus assistance) may be hired to perform special research-related tasks as needed.
- Resources that require fee-for-services within UConn.
- Participant incentives for recruitment or study participation.
d. Travel that is necessary to conduct the research, NOT travel to present the results of the research, or travel to explore future funding opportunities.
e. Equipment necessary for conducting the research (“equipment” is defined as an article of tangible, nonexpendable, personal property that costs $5,000 or more).
f. Project supplies, including drugs and services.
g. Other specifically authorized expenses as may be essential to carrying out the project.

**Seed grant funds may not be used for the following:**

a. Principal Investigator’s, Co-Investigator’s, or any faculty member’s salary.
b. Living expenses.
c. Service/maintenance contracts on equipment.
d. Laboratory renovations or other infrastructure renovations.
e. Institutional memberships in professional organizations.
f. Travel to professional meetings to present the results of the research, or any conference attendance.
g. Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries.
h. Costs associated with the publication of results of the research, such as purchase of reprints. Page charges are allowable costs.
i. Investigator training costs, including tuition.

**D. PROJECT AND INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY**

1. Proposals must be novel and take an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the study of dental health and health behavior. Both PIs in the dual-PI teams are expected to make appropriate and significant contributions to the proposed research, and to perform new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration and seed grant funding.

2. Two PIs are required and must meet the following eligibility requirements:

a. The “Dental PI” must have an eligible faculty appointment at the UConn School of Dental Medicine and be eligible to submit grants through the School of Dental Medicine. The Dental PI is encouraged but not required to become a CHIP Affiliate.
b. The “Storrs PI” must have an eligible faculty appointment at the UConn Storrs or regional campuses (excluding UConn Health), and must be eligible to submit grants through CHIP. The Storrs PI is required to be an approved CHIP Affiliate by the time of final proposal submission. The CHIP Affiliation application form and instructions are available at [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/affiliate-application/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/affiliate-application/). Please allow at least two weeks for approval.
c. Eligible faculty appointments are tenured or tenure-track faculty, in-residence research faculty, clinical faculty, other research faculty, research scientists/scholars, and adjunct faculty. Eligible faculty are not restricted to junior faculty.
d. Ineligible faculty appointments are post-doctoral fellows, lecturers, research assistants and research associates, visiting titles, and extension titles.
e. Graduate students are not eligible.
f. Seed grant proposals must be predominantly the work of the PIs and for the benefit of the PIs’ research programs. Proposals written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs’ names are not allowed.

3. Only two PIs are allowed on Dual-PI seed grants. A third member may serve as a Co-I or significant contributor but not as a PI.

4. The proposed research must be consistent with the research missions of both CHIP and the School of Dental Medicine:
   a. “CHIP will undertake research to create new scientific knowledge, theoretical frameworks, and methodological advances in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention. This work will focus on understanding the dynamics of health behavior and related systems, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interventions.”
   b. “The School of Dental Medicine aims to benefit the people of the state of Connecticut and others through programs that support research and discovery of new knowledge, education and development of competent health care professionals, delivery of patient care services of high quality, and the promotion of health.”

5. Preference will be given to topics of interest to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), including but not limited to:
   • Occupational health of dental professionals (e.g., interventions for back and neck pain in dentists)
   • Responsible practice (e.g., prescribing appropriate amounts of antibiotics and opioids)
   • Expanding the dentist’s role in patient health and health behavior (e.g., screening for hypertension, promoting tobacco cessation, addressing proper nutrition and sugar intake)

6. The PIs must commit in good faith to use the seed grant funds to obtain pilot data to support an external grant proposal to the NIDCR that will be submitted through either CHIP or the UConn School of Dental Medicine, with a substantial subcontract to the other entity by December 31, 2018.

7. If either PI already has a dual-PI seed grant from a previous fiscal year (e.g. CHIP-CT Children’s seed grant), s/he must close out that award prior to the start of the award period for the 2016 CHIP-School of Dental Medicine seed grant.

8. Each PI can only have one dual-PI submission under review at a time. If the proposal does not receive funding, the PI may apply to the next dual-PI seed grant competition.

E. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Note: CHIP staff will answer questions about the seed grant application but will not assist applicants with development of the actual budget or budget justification, or with writing the seed grant LOI or proposal.

Stage 1: Letter of Intent

due date/time. Each dual-PI team should submit only one LOI. A budget is not required at the time of LOI submission. LOIs do not require routing through grants offices at UConn Health or UConn Storrs.

2. LOIs will be reviewed by relevant CHIP and SDM staff to determine the eligibility of the proposed research and applicant team.

3. Applicants must receive written approval of their LOIs prior to submitting a full proposal.

Stage 2: Full Proposal

1. Full proposals must be submitted online at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/ by the above specified due date/time. The application form is modeled after a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R21 grant proposal and will require, at a minimum, an abstract, roles and functions of project personnel, a detailed budget and budget justification, biosketches for both PIs, a research plan, references, a brief human subjects section, and information on other support for the project. Each dual-PI team should submit only one full proposal, with separate budgets for the Storrs PI and the Dental PI. Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted, so please plan accordingly and allow plenty of time to prepare your proposal.

2. Full proposals will undergo a rigorous review process based on the National Institutes of Health grant review process, with reviewers from CHIP and the School of Dental Medicine. One or more external reviewers may be consulted as well. Individuals who are Senior/Key Personnel or Other Significant Contributors on a seed grant proposal will be excluded from participation in the review process.

3. Each dual-PI team will be notified via email whether or not their proposal has been awarded funding.

F. REVIEW CRITERIA

Priority for funding will be based on the following review criteria, in no particular order:

- Scientific merit of the research plan.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing a new methodology, new theory, or new area in need of pilot data.
- Relevance of the study to the research missions of CHIP and the School of Dental Medicine.
- Importance of the research question to the NIDCR.
- Feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent dual-PI proposal to the NIDCR no later than December 31, 2018.
- Appropriate and significant scientific contributions by each of the two PIs to complete the aims of the study.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to teams with a greater number of disciplines represented).
G. AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS
Following UConn Health procedures, all proposals from UConn Health should be routed through the Office of Sponsored Program (ORSP) prior to submission. The Storrs PI will not be required to route the proposal through Sponsored Program Services (SPS) at UConn Storrs.

The awarded PIs are responsible for obtaining all required approvals for the research. Please visit http://research.uconn.edu/irb/ for more information on IRB approval for research conducted at the UConn-Storrs Campus, the five regional campuses, the School of Law and the School of Social Work. For more information on IRB approval for research conducted at UConn Health, please visit http://hspo.uchc.edu/irb/index.html.

Awardees will be required to submit progress reports every 6 months and a final report at the conclusion of the project or award period. Changes to the project’s objectives, PIs, and budget will require prior approval from relevant CHIP and SDM staff.

Detailed awardee instructions/requirements will be distributed to seed grant winners when they are notified of the award decisions. All awardee requirements described above are subject to change in accordance with updated institutional procedures (e.g., routing requirements).

H. CONTACT
For questions not addressed in this FOA, or at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/seed-grants-and-awards/, please contact CHIP’s Program Coordinator, Megan Zhou, at megan.zhou@chip.uconn.edu.