



MEMORANDUM

TO: **UAB FACULTY**
FROM: Stephen Barnes, PhD, Director, CNRC Pilot Feasibility Program
David Allison, Ph.D., Director, CNRC
SUBJECT: **RFA - Nutrition or Obesity-Related Pilot Feasibility (P/F) Studies**
DATE: **September 16, 2009**

Via special ARRA funds, UAB's Clinical Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) will fund **2 additional obesity or nutrition-related P/F studies at \$25,000/year**. A second year of funding may be possible through a competitive renewal process.

Two Targeted Research Foci: The P/F studies must address an **area of research related to nutrition or obesity** that either:

1. Uses zebrafish as a model in collaboration with the zebrafish facility run by Dr. Stephen Watts at UAB and supported by the CNRC; or
2. Have as the PI a quantitative scientist (e.g., engineer, physicist, mathematician, computer scientist, statistician, econometrician) using an intensely quantitative approach and who have not previously been PIs on obesity or nutrition projects.

These funds are designed to provide initial project support for new investigators; allow exploration of possible innovative new directions for established investigators in nutrition sciences or obesity research that represent a *significant departure* from ongoing funded research; and stimulate investigators from other areas of endeavor to use their expertise for nutrition/obesity research.

Eligibility: P/F funding is intended to support full-time UAB faculty members who are new investigators without current or past NIH research project support (those below the rank of Associate Professor); established investigators with no previous work in nutrition or obesity research; or established investigators in nutrition/obesity with a proposal to test an innovative idea representing a *significant departure* from ongoing research interests. P/F awards may be made to post-doctoral fellows in rare cases. Post-doctoral fellows will only be considered when such individuals are preparing to transition to a faculty slot at UAB and can provide written documentation from a Department Chair that they will have a faculty position at UAB at the time of the award. Post-doctoral fellows wishing to apply should meet with their faculty mentor and the P/F and/or CNRC director prior to submitting a proposal. Non-senior PI's (Postdocs, Instructors and Asst. Profs.) must identify a senior faculty mentor who is a CNRC member with an established grant record and who will agree to provide guidance throughout the conduct of the proposed study. Priority will be given to applications germane to the CNRC mission (www.uab.edu/cnrc), which utilize CNRC core facilities, and which suggest a high likelihood of future R01 or other federal funding.

Procedure: Please provide a title, PI and an abstract (<500 words) of intent that would highlight the background and significance, hypothesis, specific aims, experimental design and procedures of the project including relevant statistical analyses. This should be submitted via e-mail to kwoods@uab.edu by October 8, 2009. Our committee will review all abstracts and select the most competitive for development of a five-page application plus supporting materials for a final round of selection. The full application will be due November 9, 2009. Specific instructions will be provided to those whose abstracts were selected. Investigators are encouraged to contact Dr. David Allison (dallison@uab.edu; 5-9169) or Dr. Stephen Barnes (sbarnes@uab.edu; 4-7117) to determine their eligibility and the appropriateness of their project.

Acceptance of funding will indicate agreement to present a CNRC seminar near or at study completion, to submit a grant for extramural funding to continue the project, and to provide a written progress report at 6 month intervals.