



**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: March 9, 2009

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UAB's Clinical Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) will fund at least **3 nutrition-related P/F studies at up to \$25,000/year**. A second year of funding is possible through a competitive renewal process.

**Research Focus:** The P/F studies may focus on **any area of research related to nutrition or obesity** and 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. However, generally, post-doctoral fellows will only be competitive when such individuals are preparing to transition to a faculty slot at UAB. Post-doctoral fellows wishing to apply are strongly encouraged to meet simultaneously with their UAB faculty mentor and the P/F and/or CNRC director prior to submitting a proposal. PI's (Postdocs, Instructors and Asst. Profs.) must identify a senior faculty mentor who will agree to provide guidance throughout the conduct of the proposed study. Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate the CNRC mission ([www.uab.edu/cnrc](http://www.uab.edu/cnrc)), CNRC core facility usage, and likelihood of future R01 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 [belln@uab.edu](mailto:belln@uab.edu) by May 11, 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 June 15, 2009. Specific instructions will be provided to those whose abstracts were selected. Investigators are encouraged to contact Dr. David Allison ([dallison@uab.edu](mailto:dallison@uab.edu); 5-9169) or Dr. Stephen Barnes ([sbarnes@uab.edu](mailto: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.