MEMORANDUM

TO: University of Alabama at Birmingham Faculty

FROM: Anath Shalev, MD
Professor of Medicine, Nancy R. and Eugene C. Gwaltney Family
Endowed Chair in Juvenile Diabetes Research
Director, UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center

Frances E. Lund, PhD
Charles H. McCauley Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology

SUBJECT: RFA FOR PILOT FUNDING WITH A FOCUS ON:
INFLAMMATION, INFECTION, OR IMMUNITY IN THE CONTEXT OF TYPE 1 OR TYPE 2 DIABETES

As part of the UAB School of Medicine (SOM) strategic plan, SOM faculty identified five research focus areas that were cross-cutting, not disease or organ specific and aligned with strategic scientific priorities in areas where UAB can maintain national prominence. Inflammation, Infection and Immunity (I3) was chosen as one of the research areas for investment as inflammation, infection and immunity affect essentially every disease process that is studied and treated at UAB. In response to strategic investments by the UAB SOM in I3 relevant research, the I3 steering committee, composed of Center and Division Directors and Department Chairs, is pleased to announce a joint RFA with the UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center to fund one or more pilot projects that focus on Inflammation, Infection or Immunity (broadly written) in the context of diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2) research. The I3 matching funds can be used to generate key preliminary data and/or to continue advancing projects that are undergoing extramural peer review. Projects, particularly multi-PI projects that have advanced beyond the first stages of planning are especially welcome. Projects that are responsive to an upcoming/issued RFA or will enhance likelihood of continued extramural support will be deemed highly responsive. The recipients of I3 matching funding will be expected to submit their application within 12-18 months of receiving pilot funding and to have the application internally reviewed before the final application is sent to the funding agency.

Eligibility: Funding will be available to full time UAB faculty members at any rank, but a strong track record of publication and funding is desirable.

Funding and Review Process: This mechanism will fund studies at up to $100,000 for one year. Because the scope and nature of the applications may vary, the size of the award may also vary. Applications will be selected for funding based on merit using NIH study section criteria. Projects will be favored if consistent with the focus of this RFA and likely to lead to future NIH funding; multiple PIs and applications from other research centers and departments are encouraged. Funding for selected projects is expected to begin December 1, 2016.

Application Procedure: To apply, please submit the following in one PDF file to mpreuss@uab.edu by November 1, 2016

1. Research Plan (limited to 5 pages, excluding references) should include the following paragraphs: Specific Aims, Significance & Innovation, Approach (including any
preliminary data and research design), Multiple PI plan where applicable and a plan for future extramural funding applications.

(ii) Budget, Budget Justification, Current and Pending Support and declaration if this project is under consideration via any other external or internal funding mechanism.

(iii) NIH Biosketch (limit 4 pages)

**Acceptance:** Acceptance of funding will require the PI to adhere to a plan for submitting grants to extramural funding agencies within 12-18 months of receiving pilot funding, to present a research seminar at study completion, and to report research progress.

**Questions:** If you have questions concerning eligibility or the submission of these proposals, please contact Meredith Preuss (mpreuss@uab.edu or 996-4777).