Limited Submission Funding Opportunity

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI): Centers for Common Disease Genomics (UM1)


**FOA#:** RFA-HG-015-001

This FOA aims to fund a collaborative large-scale genome sequencing effort to identify risk and protective variants contributing to multiple specific common disease phenotypes; to explore a range of diseases with the ultimate goal of doing this as comprehensively as possible within the evolving state-of-the-art for enough different disease architectures and study designs to understand general principles of how best to design rare variant studies for common disease; to better understand the genomic architecture underlying inherited disease; and to develop resources for multiple disease research communities and the wider biomedical research community.

Within the limits of the funding provided, it is anticipated that at least five to ten architecturally diverse disorders will be explored comprehensively over the course of the program. A variety of study designs will also be encouraged including creative designs that may be more efficient. Given NHGRI’s unique role in propelling advances in large-scale sequencing, efforts funded in response to this FOA will be confined to questions that can only be answered at very large scales.

One scientific objective of this initiative is that the end result should be more than just quantitative, that is, more than just adding more and more variants of lower frequency and effect size as power increases. Rather, the program should deliver clear qualitative insights into the scientific questions considered. These might include, for example, understanding and establishing the value of the approach, and limits of our ability to understand common disease, in the context of different disease architectures, or practical limits, or other factors. Another example would be clearly defining "stopping points" for common disease sequencing studies, balancing scientific and practical considerations. In addition, it is an objective of this FOA that studies be designed so that even a negative result is informative.

Successful applicants to this program will be expected to collaborate effectively with each other to maximize the chances of overall success of the program. For example, some of the projects envisaged here may be very large, and require multiple groups to coordinate e.g. on data production, complementary project designs, and other aspects. Furthermore, NHGRI plans to solicit and fund a program Coordinating Center and also potentially a separate initiative for analysis activities. These will become components of the NHGRI Genome Sequencing Research Network, along with the Centers for Mendelian Genomics and the CCDG.
AWARD INFORMATION:
Application budgets are limited to $40M total costs per year but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The maximum project period is 4 years.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
Only one application per institution is allowed.

KEY DATES
If you are interested in this funding opportunity, please contact Eric Boberg (e-boberg@northwestern.edu) by January 15, 2015.

The sponsor application due date is April 7, 2015 (by 5 pm).

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/