

ILSB: CONVERGENT RESEARCH INITIATIVES (ILSB-CRI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

UMBC – College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences

Submission Date for Proposals: December 3, 2018

Purpose: Solicit proposals for **Areas of Excellence** from UMBC faculty to work as teams in areas of novel or existing research related to life sciences and biotechnology. This request supports UMBC's Strategic Plan in all goals under *Collective Impact in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Achievement*. The intent is to create and develop areas of excellence that will attract significant external support and enhance the reputation of UMBC.

Background: The Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB) is scheduled to be officially opened fall 2019. The ILSB is designed to support interdisciplinary research, active/applied learning, and STEM workforce development. A detailed description of the building and its design can be found at <https://fm.umbc.edu/projects/ilsb/about-the-project/>. The ILSB will provide many new opportunities for integrating research, teaching, and learning across departments and colleges in support of our mission of student success and expanding research in areas of strategic importance.

Through a convergence of skills and disciplines, societal problems of critical significance will be addressed by bringing together researchers in the life sciences from across the campus to work together in a unified manner. Collaboration areas for formal and informal interchanges and meetings are found throughout the ILSB – with the goal of cross-fertilization of ideas as dedicated teams pursue novel and promising leads in the pursuit of life science research, advance the State's biotechnology industry, and increase the number of STEM graduates.

Eligibility: Initiative Leaders must hold a tenured appointment at UMBC. Center personnel and other individuals both internal and external to UMBC are encouraged to participate in collaboration with tenured, academic faculty.

Support: Proposals can be for requesting research space, offices, or access to shared facilities in the ILSB and may include justification for complementary new personnel to strengthen the proposed research initiative.

Review: Each application must include letters of support from all academic department chairs where participating faculty are based. The Review Committee is comprised of the College Deans (CAHSS, CNMS, and COEIT) and the Vice President for Research.

Criteria: Proposals will be reviewed for:

- Qualifications of Initiative Leader and associated faculty to implement the proposed initiative
- Quality of proposed collaboration and its significance to the vision of the ILSB
- Description of a life sciences-focused vision with multiple disciplinary partners
- Strategic alignment with complementary efforts at UMB or other institutions, if any
- Likelihood of sustainability, future funding, and collective impact
- Justification for space and resources specific to the ILSB

How to apply: Complete the attached application form (only one proposal per initiative will be considered – faculty can participate on up to two proposals) and submit the original application in electronic form (PDF) to the Dean of CNMS (lacourse@umbc.edu).

Deadline: Submission: **December 3, 2018** (for best consideration)

Notification: **February 1, 2019**

Contact: Bill LaCourse, lacourse@umbc.edu or ext. 52105

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APPLICATION FORM

INITIATIVE LEADER (*one only*) _____

DEPARTMENT _____ COLLEGE _____

CAMPUS MAILING ADDRESS _____
(Office) (Phone #) (email address)

COLLABORATORS (Additional names should be included in the proposal.)

NAME _____ DEPT/CAMPUS _____ EMAIL _____

NAME _____ DEPT/CAMPUS _____ EMAIL _____

NAME _____ DEPT/CAMPUS _____ EMAIL _____

TITLE OF RESEARCH INITIATIVE _____

SPACE REQUESTED _____

JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL _____

OTHER SUPPORT \$ _____ EQUIPMENT _____ PERSONNEL _____

SOURCES of EXTERNAL SUPPORT / 5 YEARS _____

CONDITIONS OF AWARD:

The Initiative Leader affirms that if receiving an award:

1. Awardee(s) will relocate to the ILSB space as determined by the ILSB Responsible Agent.
2. Awardee(s) will adhere to all required hazardous procedures, animal and human subject approvals, conflict of interest, and/or intellectual property submissions in accordance with university policy.
3. Awardee(s) will seek external funding to support the proposed initiative.
4. Awardee(s) will submit an annual report with status and progress to the Review Committee via the Dean of CNMS
5. Awardee(s) understands that space assignment is subject to productivity assessment on an annual basis.
6. Awardee(s) understands that the amount and type of space available to the initiative will depend on continued progress and productivity.

I (the initiative leader) have read and accept the conditions under which this grant will be awarded:	
Initiative Leader Signature: _____	Date _____
Department Chair's Signature or Departmental Faculty Committee Chair's Signature: _____	
_____	Date _____
Dean's Signature: _____	
_____	Date _____

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PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

The proposal must include:

- I. **VISION STATEMENT (up to ½ page).** Provide a vision statement that clearly defines the ultimate outcome of the initiative.
- II. **SUMMARY (up to ½ page).** The summary should be written in non-technical language that clearly highlights the need for space in the ILSB and for other key resources required to successfully launch the initiative. Keep in mind that the summary may be used as a source for promotion and publicity of the initiative.
- III. **PROPOSAL BODY (limited to five pages not including references).** Figures or tables may be submitted in an Appendix. Font should be at least 11 points and margins should be at least one inch on each side. Include the following:
 - a. clear and concise statement of the specific aims or goals of the initiative
 - b. significance of the proposed initiative to the research and education mission of UMBC
 - c. alignment of the initiative with the strategic plan of the university
 - d. strategic alignment with complementary efforts at UMB or other institutions, if any
 - e. detailed description of the initiative
 - f. justification for need of ILSB space,
 - i. How is current space inadequate for the identified need? Or what is the advantage of ILSB space?
 - ii. How does the initiative fit with the mission of the unit, school, college, division, and university?
 - iii. What are the benefits (financial, programmatic, etc.) that will occur as a result of having the initiative selected? If this request is denied, what will be the consequences?
 - g. justification for and required expertise of additional personnel to complement the existing team
 - h. administration and oversight of the team and the initiative
 - i. evaluation of potential for sustainability, external support, or expanded scholarly activity
 - j. needs and support beyond space that would facilitate the success of your initiative
 - k. specifics and timeline for expected external sources of funding and support
- IV. **LITERATURE CITED (no limit)**
- V. **LETTERS of SUPPORT (from each department chair of each initiative participant)**
- VI. **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.** Please attach an NSF or NIH biographical sketch for each participant in the initiative.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- a. The Awardee must submit an annual progress report for at least the next five years addressing and identifying outcomes or scholarly accomplishments associated with the ILSB-CRI support (e.g., publications, exhibits, conferences, research funding proposals and awards, etc.). The progress report should contain quantitative information as to the impact of this award.
- b. The Awardee is expected to submit multiple proposals to external agencies or sponsors during the funding year in order to seek a significant increase in funding over current levels (i.e., a first grant, a new direction, or a significant increase over current work) to support the team research initiative.