MS-INBRE Research Project Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Grant Years 2027-2029

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1. Program Overview

The Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (MS-INBRE) Research Project Program supports faculty investigators at MS-INBRE Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) who are developing sustainable, externally competitive biomedical research programs.

Research Project awards provide protected research time, research support, mentoring, and access to MS-INBRE resources to enhance research productivity, undergraduate research training, and competitiveness for external funding.

Research Projects represent the primary faculty development mechanism within MS-INBRE and are intended to support investigators progressing toward independent funding from NIH and other federal, foundation, and industry sponsors.

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2. Program Goals

Consistent with the goals of the NIH IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Program, Research Projects are designed to:

- Strengthen biomedical research capacity at PUIs.
- Support faculty research development and independence.
- Increase undergraduate student participation in research.
- Promote biomedical workforce development.
- Generate publications and scholarly products.
- Increase success in obtaining external funding.

- Enhance statewide biomedical research collaborations.

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3. Award Information

Funding Mechanism: Research Project

Award Amount: Up to **$125,000 Direct Costs per year plus applicable Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs**

Project Period: Two (2) Years

Project Dates: September 1, 2027 - August 31, 2029

Number of Awards: Dependent upon available funding and program priorities.

Funding Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), through the Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (MS-INBRE).

Continuation into Year 2 is contingent upon satisfactory progress toward project aims and program milestones.

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4. Key Dates

Activity	Date
Letter of Intent Due	February 1, 2027
Invitation for Full Application	February 2027
Full Application Due	April 1, 2027
Scientific Review	Spring 2027
Funding Decisions	Summer 2027
Earliest Start Date	September 1, 2027

Applications must be received by **5:00 PM Central Time** on the stated deadline.

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5. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Hold a tenure-track faculty appointment at an MS-INBRE Predominantly Undergraduate Institution (PUI).
- Hold the rank of Assistant Professor or higher.
- Be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator under institutional policies.

- Demonstrate an active biomedical research program.
- Commit a minimum of **six (6) person months (50% effort)** annually to the proposed project.
- Identify at least one Research Mentor and/or Career Mentor.
- Demonstrate potential for future external funding success.

Preference may be given to investigators who have not yet achieved substantial independent NIH research funding.

Investigators currently serving as Principal Investigator on an active MS-INBRE Research Project award are not eligible to apply.

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6. Responsiveness Requirements

Applications must clearly demonstrate:

NIH Mission Relevance

The proposed research must support the NIH mission by advancing knowledge relevant to human health, disease, biomedical sciences, behavioral sciences, translational sciences, or public health.

NIH Priority Alignment

The proposed research must align with current NIH priorities and the goals of the INBRE program.

Research Compliance and Oversight

Applicants must identify activities requiring institutional oversight, regulatory review, or special approvals.

Dangerous Gain-of-Function (dGoF)

Projects involving prohibited dangerous gain-of-function research or other activities requiring federal high-risk biological research review are not allowable.

Undergraduate Research Engagement

Projects must provide meaningful undergraduate research experiences.

Research Capacity Building

Projects must contribute to strengthening biomedical research capacity at a PUI.

Applications that fail to adequately address these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and withdrawn from consideration.

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7. Letter of Intent (LOI)

Submission of a Letter of Intent is required.

LOI Components (Maximum 3 Pages)

1. Project Title
2. Principal Investigator Name
3. Institution
4. Mentor Identification
5. NIH Mission Relevance Statement (250 words maximum)
6. Specific Aims (1 page maximum)

Additional Required Document

- NIH Biosketch

Submission of an LOI does not obligate the applicant to submit a Full Application.

Submit Letters of Intent as a **single PDF document** to:

msinbre@usm.edu

Subject Line:
MS-INBRE Research Project Application LOI – [Last Name]

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 PM Central Time** on the applicable deadline. Late submissions may not be reviewed.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring successful delivery of application materials by the stated deadline.

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8. Full Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF document and include the following components.

Cover Page (1 Page)

Include:

- Project Title
- PI Name
- Institution
- Department
- Academic Rank

- Contact Information
- Requested Direct Costs
- Requested F&A Costs
- Person Months and Percent Effort

Project Summary (1 Page)

Include:

- Overall goal
- Central hypothesis
- Specific objectives
- Brief description of the approach
- Expected outcomes
- Relevance to human health
- NIH mission relevance

Mission Relevance, Priority Alignment, and Research Oversight Statement (1 Page)

Address:

- NIH mission relevance
- Human health significance
- NIH priority alignment
- Research oversight considerations
- dGoF certification statement

Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) Letter (1 Page)

The letter must verify:

- Investigator eligibility
- Institutional support
- Availability of facilities and resources
- Commitment to providing six (6) person months of protected research effort annually

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Specific Aims (1 Page)

State:

- Long-term research goals
- Project objectives
- Central hypothesis
- Expected outcomes

Research Strategy (6 Pages Maximum)

Organize under the following headings:

Significance

Scientific importance, knowledge gaps, and anticipated impact.

Innovation

Novel concepts, methodologies, technologies, or approaches.

Approach

Research design, methods, analyses, anticipated outcomes, and alternative strategies.

Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility

Address:

- Scientific premise
- Experimental design
- Consideration of biological variables, as appropriate
- Methods to minimize bias
- Reproducibility considerations
- Authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources, when applicable

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Additional Information (3 Pages Maximum)

Address the following:

Undergraduate Research and Workforce Development

Describe student participation, mentoring, and anticipated educational outcomes.

Research Capacity Building

Describe how the project will strengthen biomedical research capacity at the institution.

Use of MS-INBRE Resources

Describe utilization of MS-INBRE cores, instrumentation, data science resources, mentoring resources, and other program services.

Sustainability and External Funding

Describe publication plans, future grant submissions, and long-term research goals.

Mentoring

Describe mentor interactions, research guidance, professional development, and grantsmanship support.

Data Management and Sharing Plan (1 Page Maximum)

Describe:

- Anticipated scientific data
- Data preservation methods
- Data-sharing strategy
- Repository plans, if applicable

NIH DMS Plan Guidance:
https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/sharing-policies/dms/writing-dms-plan

NIH 2026 DMS Plan Format Template:
https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/sharing-policies/dms/writing-dms-plan

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Budget and Budget Justification

No page limit.

Applicants must provide a detailed project budget and budget justification using the budget categories of the NIH Research & Related (R&R) Budget. The budget justification should clearly explain and support all requested costs.

NIH R&R Budget Form Instructions:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-i/general/g.300-r&r-budget-form.htm

Applicants are encouraged to consult their institution's grants office when preparing budgets and calculating fringe benefit and indirect cost rates.

Allowable Costs

- Faculty salary support

- Summer salary support
- Research supplies
- Laboratory consumables
- Student wages
- Core facility fees
- Publication costs
- Project-related travel
- Other approved research expenses

Unallowable Costs

- Participant Support Costs
- Entertainment expenses
- Activities prohibited by this FOA

Student researchers must be compensated through wages. Stipends are not allowable.

NIH Biosketch

Required for:

- Principal Investigator
- Mentor(s)
- Key Personnel

Applicants must submit an NIH Biographical Sketch generated through **SciENcv** using the current NIH Common Forms format.

SciENcv:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/

NIH Biographical Sketch Guidance:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

Failure to use the current NIH Common Forms format may result in the application being considered incomplete.

Other Support

Required.

Applicants must disclose all active, pending, and other support in accordance with current NIH disclosure requirements.

Applicants must generate and submit the **Other Support** document using **SciENcv** and the current NIH Common Forms format.

SciENcv:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/

NIH Other Support Guidance:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/other-support.htm

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all domestic and foreign support, including in-kind contributions and resources available to support the proposed research effort, are accurately disclosed. Failure to provide complete and accurate disclosures may result in administrative action, withdrawal from consideration, or termination of an award.

Facilities and Resources (2 Pages Maximum)

Describe:

- Research facilities
- Major equipment
- Research infrastructure
- Institutional support
- Scientific environment

Mentor Letter (Required)

The Mentor Letter should address:

- Mentor qualifications
- Mentoring activities
- Frequency of interactions
- Scientific guidance
- Publication support
- Grantsmanship support
- Career development

Maximum: 1 page per mentor.

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9. Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Scientific Merit

- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach
- Feasibility
- Scientific rigor

Investigator Development

- Research independence
- Potential for future funding success
- Career development

Undergraduate Research and Workforce Development

- Student engagement
- Mentoring quality
- Training opportunities

Research Capacity Building

- Institutional impact
- Sustainability
- Expansion of research opportunities
- Enhancement of biomedical research capacity at the PUI

Programmatic Relevance

- NIH mission relevance
- NIH priority alignment
- Alignment with MS-INBRE goals

Research Compliance and Oversight

- Completeness of disclosures
- Research oversight considerations
- Compliance with applicable requirements
- dGoF review

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10. Program Milestones and Expectations

Milestone	Expectation
Effort Commitment	≥ 6 Person Months (50%) Annually

Undergraduate Research Participation	Minimum 1 Undergraduate Student Annually
Mentor Meetings	Monthly
MS-INBRE Investigator Activities	Participation Required
Progress Toward Project Aims	Demonstrated
Scientific Presentation	At Least One Annually
Manuscript Submission	Expected Annually
Grant Development Activities	Required
External Funding Application	Minimum One Submission During Award Period
Research Program Development	Demonstrated Progress Toward Independence

Research Project investigators are expected to progress toward sustained external funding and development of an independent biomedical research program.

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11. Reporting Requirements

Awardees will be required to report:

- Publications
- Presentations
- Student participation
- Student outcomes
- Grant submissions
- Grant awards
- Other scholarly products

Continuation into the second year of funding will be contingent upon satisfactory progress.

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12. Submission Instructions

Submit Full Applications as a single PDF document to:

msinbre@usm.edu

Subject Line

MS-INBRE Research Project Application – [Last Name]

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 PM Central Time** on the applicable deadline.

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13. Program Contacts

Scientific, Programmatic, Research Development, and Eligibility Questions

Dr. Tristan Clemons
tristan.clemons@usm.edu

Budget and Administrative Questions

Mary Ann McRaney, CRA, CPRA, CFRA
Director of Operations, MS-INBRE
maryann.mcraney@usm.edu

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14. Applicant Resources

- NIH R&R Budget Form Instructions:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-i/general/g.300-r&r-budget-form.htm

- SciENcv (NIH Biosketch and Other Support):
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/

- NIH Biographical Sketch Guidance:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

- NIH Other Support Guidance:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/other-support.htm

- NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy:
https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/sharing-policies/dms

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MS-INBRE reserves the right to revise this FOA, make no awards, or make awards in amounts different from those requested based upon programmatic priorities, peer review outcomes, and availability of funds.