

Dear Colleagues,

In 2021, The Sanford Center for Biobehavioral Research received a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Grant (COBRE) from the National Institutes of Health. North Dakota State University (NDSU) and the University of North Dakota (UND) serve as our partners in this very significant scientific venture.

Grants such as this help to build Centers of Research Excellence in particular areas of scientific study and this recent COBRE award focuses on eating disorders and obesity. In addition to facilitating high-level scientific research on these topics, the CoBRE also supports the development of research cores (e.g., biostatistics, measurement and assessment) to support such work.

Additionally, we will sponsor a Pilot Projects Program. This program is open to staff and faculty from Sanford, NDSU, UND and the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center. Our goal is to provide scientists and clinicians with the opportunity to conduct pilot studies which can ultimately lead to broader scientific investigations in the areas of eating disorders and obesity.

Attached you will find the request for applications for our Pilot Projects Program. This year, we will be awarding two to three \$50,000 awards to investigators in our region. We hope that you will consider submitting an application. If you know someone who you think would be a good candidate, please share this with them as well. Letter of Intent due October 10, 2022.

If you have any questions about the Pilot Project Program, please reach out to Kathryn Bentley, BSN, RN, Research Project Manager at: [Kathryn.Bentley@SanfordHealth.org](mailto:Kathryn.Bentley@SanfordHealth.org) or call 701-365-4916.

Thank you for your interest in our COBRE and we look forward to supporting clinical research in these very important areas!

Steve

**Stephen Wonderlich Ph.D.**

Vice-President for Research  
Chief of Behavioral Health Research, Sanford Health-Fargo  
Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor  
University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
120 8<sup>th</sup> St. South  
Fargo, N.D. 58103  
Phone: 701-365-4921  
Cell: 701-540-3005

## Call for Pilot Project Applications

Sanford Center for Biobehavioral Mechanisms of Eating Behavior  
An NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Program

### Letter of Intent due October 10, 2022

*Those selected to submit a full application will be notified the week of October 24th, 2022*

### Selected full applications due: December 5, 2022

### Anticipated start date: March 1, 2023

The Sanford Research Center for Biobehavioral Mechanisms of Eating Behavior (CBM-EB) COBRE invites proposals for pilot projects to support promising research that fits well within the scientific theme of the Center. **We anticipate supporting 2-3 new pilot projects at an amount of \$50,000 total costs per year, for one year, with an anticipated start date of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.** The Sanford Research CBM-EB COBRE Pilot Projects Program is open to full-time healthcare professionals or faculty of Sanford Health, Sanford Research, NDSU, UND and affiliated institutions (e.g., Imagenetics, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center). The goal of this program is to engage investigators in the research on eating disorders and eating behavior.

**The COBRE Program is an initiative of the NIH-NIGMS. COBRE Centers are intended to:**

- Focus on a single area of research;
- Build and strengthen biomedical research capability;
- Enhance research infrastructure;
- Encourage collaborative research and research grant applications;
- Foster health-related research.

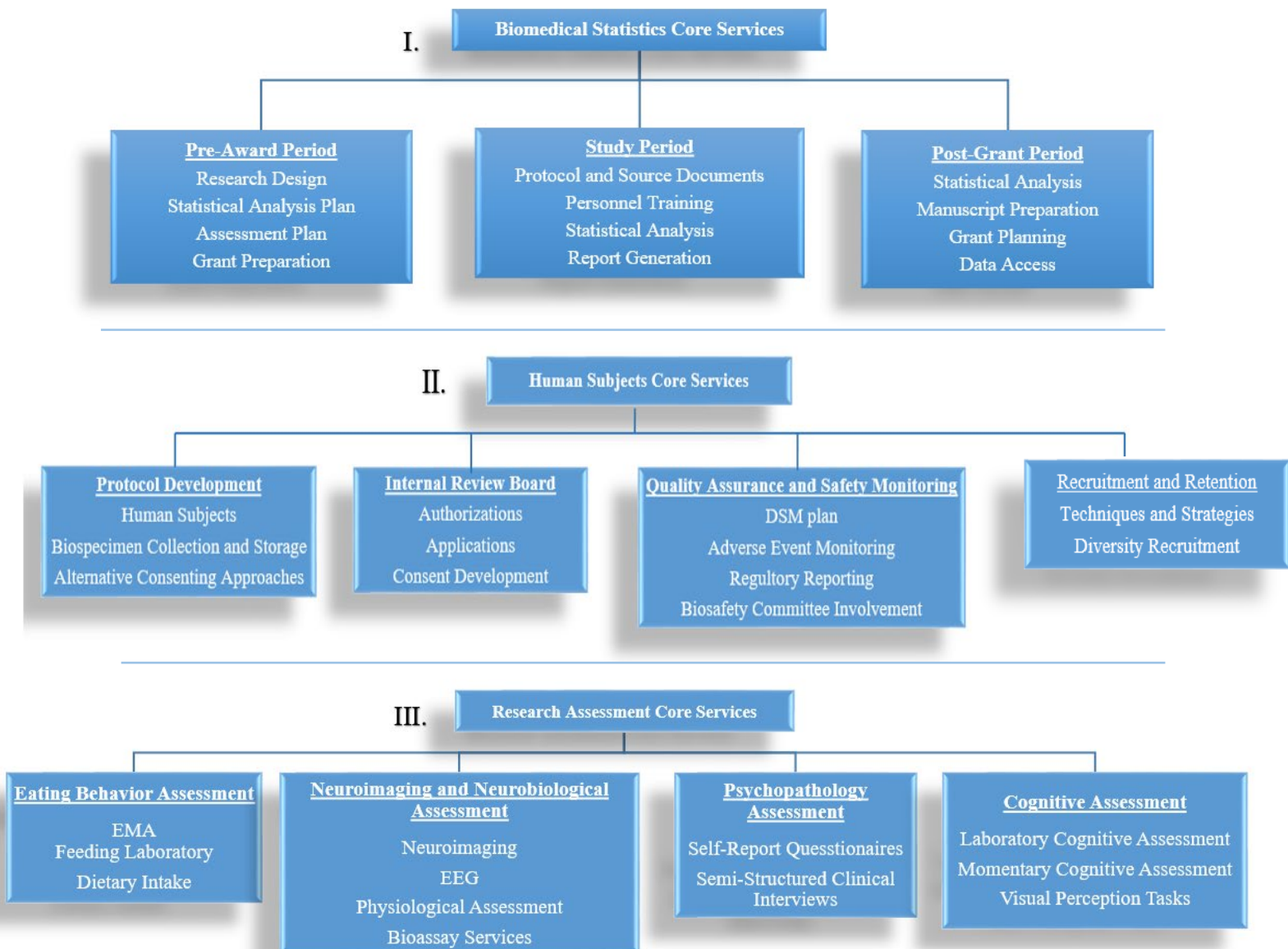
**Research areas eligible for funding within this COBRE include, but are not limited to, the following topics:**

- Risk Factors or predictors of eating disorder behavior;
- Illness-related mechanisms for onset and maintenance of eating disorders;
- Intervention-related mechanisms regarding treatment or prevention of eating disorders;
- Factors that moderate the influence of risk factors or mechanism of eating disorder behavior;
- The prevalence of eating disordered behaviors in different populations;
- The association between eating disordered behaviors and other health-related behaviors.

## **Criteria for Evaluation of Pilot Project Applications Include:**

- Strength of the science and the quality and clarity of its presentation;
- Relevance to the focus of CBM-EB COBRE;
- Likelihood of the pilot project becoming a competitive extramural project;
- Likelihood of study completion by the conclusion of this pilot grant funding;
- Career status of the applicant (early career status encouraged);
- Previous productivity and research funding, both attempted and successful grant applications;
- A clear, detailed plan for utilization of one or more CBM-EB COBRE Research Cores in the planning or execution of the pilot project.

## **Projects Must Extensively Utilize One or More of the CBM-EB COBRE Research Cores:**



## **General Terms and Conditions of Pilot Project Awards:**

1. COBRE pilot projects must have a single PI who will be responsible for the scientific direction and management of the project. The PI must be a resident of an IDeA eligible state\*. Collaborators can be included if the collaboration provides expertise necessary to the proposed research and not held by the PI.
2. The Principal Investigator (PI) for pilot projects may not concurrently have research funding from other IDeA Program award mechanisms (e.g., INBRE, COBRE, and DaCCoTA).
3. Funds may be used for consumable supplies, services or small laboratory hardware (nothing >\$5,000).
4. Personnel costs are allowable. Preference will be given to applications that name specific individuals who are assured to be present on-site, eligible to work, and ready to begin no later than March 1, 2023. PI salary support may be allowable.
5. Travel costs and tuition costs are not allowed.
6. Each pilot project award will be \$50,000 total costs per year which is inclusive of indirect funds.
7. Investigators who receive COBRE support are required to participate fully in the regular research meetings of the of the Center, as well as seminars, symposia, workshops and other special activities organized or sponsored by the Center.
8. Any publication arising from the work supported by CBM-EB and/or any of the research cores supported CBM-EB must cite the grant (NIH/NIGMS P20GM134969).
9. A standard NIH-type progress report (2 pages in length) is required from each COBRE pilot project investigator. This report will be due 6 weeks prior to the submission of the NIH COBRE annual report.
10. Term and budget adjustments: The COBRE PIs reserve the right to make term and budget adjustments in accordance with the intent of the CBM-EB COBRE program and NIH policies concerning scientific overlap of projects.
11. Unanticipated new requirements: By accepting COBRE funds, awardees agree to comply with any and all requirements not already mentioned that may be imposed on the COBRE by NIH or other institutional authority.

## **The Application Process:**

### **Step 1- Send Email Letter of Intent**

Letters of intent should be sent as a PDF via email to Kathryn Bentley, Research Project Manager at: [CBM-EBCoBREPIlotProjects@Sanfordhealth.org](mailto:CBM-EBCoBREPIlotProjects@Sanfordhealth.org)

Your letter of intent **must**:

- Be sent to the email above as a PDF attachment by 5 PM on October 10, 2022
- Be no longer than one page, single spaced. Utilize 11 pt. or greater font. Preferred font styles include: Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Palatino Linotype). Provide at least one-half inch margins (½") - top, bottom, left, and right - for all pages.
- Include the applicant's NIH biosketch: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- Explain briefly the nature or focus of the research that will be proposed and, if not obvious, how it fits the scientific theme of the CBM-EB COBRE, and
- Explain briefly how the project will utilize one or more of the CBM-EB COBRE Research Cores.

---

### **Step 2-Evaluation**

Proposals will be evaluated based on scientific merit by an internal Pilot Project Review Committee using the NIH scoring system. Proposals will be scored on a scale of 1 (best) through 9 (worst) based on significance, investigators, innovation, approach, environment (pertaining to research being proposed and the use of core labs), and an overall impact score (based on the high likelihood of success as a fully developed NIH proposal and the scope of work corresponding to the priorities of the COBRE Program). Final approval for funding will be made by an External Advisory Committee, with approval from the NIH.

**Based on evaluation of your letter of intent by a Pilot Projects Review Committee, you will be notified the week of October 24, 2022 if you should prepare and submit a full application.**

---

Prospective applicants with questions about eligibility, program details, or the "fit" of their project to the CBM-EB COBRE theme are encouraged to contact:

Kathryn Bentley, Research Project Manager ([CBM-EBCoBREPIlotProjects@Sanfordhealth.org](mailto:CBM-EBCoBREPIlotProjects@Sanfordhealth.org)) Phone: (701) 365 4916)

### **Step 3- Prepare and Submit a Complete Application**

*Applications should be prepared in general accord with the NIH PHS 398 application guidelines.*

Go to: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Under the section labeled “**Fillable Individual PHS 398 Forms**”

#### **Please Complete the Following:**

1. NIH Face Page (Form Page 1).
2. NIH Pages Two and Three: Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem cells.
3. NIH Detailed Budget (Form Page 4). Allowable costs can include salary support for PI, graduate students, or staff.
4. Budget/Personnel justification.
5. NIH Biographical Sketch(es) of PI and key personnel.  
(<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
6. Research Plan/Proposal: Three-page limit including specific aims, significance, innovation, and research strategy. Bibliography is not included in the three-page limit.
  - a. Single spacing
  - b. Utilize 11 pt. or greater font (preferred font styles include: Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype)
7. If the applicant has a history or success from prior awards this will be weighted heavily. Please provide one page maximum outlining the progress on that prior work, including publications and extramural funding.
8. Human Subjects (NIH PHS Form F), if applicable.
9. Vertebrate animal justification and protection (VAS), if applicable.

### Step 3- Prepare and Submit a Complete Application Continued

#### **In addition, please observe the following:**

- The research plan may not exceed three (3) pages in length including figures and tables but excluding references. See NIH required document formatting instructions:
  - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/format-attachments.htm>
- All figures and their lettering must be large enough to be clearly legible. Legibility of all provided material is the responsibility of the applicant.
- Missing or inaccurate information may disqualify your application from consideration.

#### **If the proposed study involves human subjects, the following documents will need to be submitted to NIH prior to award notice:**

- Written protocol addressing the risks and protections for human subjects;
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval;
- Human Subjects Education Certification.

#### **If the proposed project involves clinical trials, in addition to above documents, the following documents must also be submitted to NIH:**

- Specific plans for data and safety monitoring;
- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) certification.

#### **If the proposal involves Vertebrate Animals, IACUC approval and the Vertebrate Animal Section will also need to be submitted to NIH prior to award notice.**

To learn more about the Sanford Center for Biobehavioral  
Mechanisms of Eating Behavior COBRE

Visit our website:

<https://research.sanfordhealth.org/fields-of-research/behavioral-science/eating-disorders>

Or scan the QR Code



**SANFORD**  
RESEARCH

