We are pleased to announce that the Vermont Center for Cardiovascular and Brain Health (VCCBH) is selecting up to 4 new Research Project Leaders (RPLs) to prepare a research project application in our Phase 2 grant renewal application. While that application is due May 29, 2024, successful applicants might start their funding as early as January 2024. The VCCBH focuses broadly on cardiovascular and neurovascular diseases, including but not limited to vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia (VCID) and the relationships of the cardiovascular system to brain health.

The VCCBH is an NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in year 4 our first 5-years of funding. Our goal is to support early career faculty independence using research funding provided over 2-3 years, a Strategic Mentoring Initiative, and access to Core facilities.

As stated above, successful applicants will be included in our renewal application for Phase 2 of funding. Therefore, it is imperative that you are prepared to meet all milestones for grant preparation if we select you to participate. The reason you may start with funding this winter or spring is that we may have graduations of currently funded investigators, so could have open spots.

Key points for your application:
- We strongly encourage you to contact us about specifics of what we are looking for. Contact Dr. Owen Nadeau (owen.nadeau@med.uvm.edu).
- Contact our Science Cores, described on our site (Study Design and Molecular Epidemiology Core; Customized Physiology and Imaging Core), and plan to use their services in your project. Use of one or both Cores is an expectation of participants.
- We are looking for RPLs from any discipline from all UVM Colleges.
- Early career faculty with an R01 (or equivalent) are not eligible. Those who have received R03, R21, R00, or K awards are eligible.
- RPLs must devote at least 50% effort to research. Speak with your Chair as appropriate.
- Project Scope: Your project should be completed in 2-3 years, with a budget of $150-200K direct costs per year. This should prepare you for a competitive R01 application.
- Outstanding mentor-mentee teams are key to success. Identify 1-2 senior mentors who will support you. We encourage 2 mentors from different disciplines.

Selection Process: We will select applicants to do brief pitch presentations to a selection committee in September, who will ask you questions. The selected individuals will then prepare a 6-page NIH application, with assistance from our team. All deadlines that we set must be met.

To apply for a position, please send the following to Dr. Owen Nadeau (owen.nadeau@med.uvm.edu):
- 1-page summary: provide high-level description of the project, with specific aims, and identify the mentor team.
- NIH biosketches: tailored to this opportunity, for the RPL and the mentor(s)
- Preparedness and path to independence: Provide a statement in your biosketch that you will be able to devote the necessary time this fall and winter to meet all deadlines we provide for grant preparation. Describe your anticipated path (including timeline) to independent funding (R01 or other) though this research in a separate paragraph. We expect that an NIH R01 or equivalent application is submitted during year 2 of funding for each RPL.

The deadline to submit your application is 5 pm Aug 28, 2023. Our website is here. Please feel invited to direct questions to Dr Nadeau.