CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2012 DEDICATED RESEARCH TIME

This call is to solicit applications for receipt of dedicated research time for 2012. Dedicated research time is a reassignment of up to 6 CH of one’s teaching duties to research within a period of time equivalent to one academic year; the reassignment may apply to one semester (Spring or Fall) or be spread over both semesters as may best serve the faculty member’s research goals and the needs of the academic department.

The purpose of dedicated research time is to 

**advance one’s nursing research program with the specific goal of increasing the potential for securing external grant funding for a research study.** Priority will be given to those seeking federal (e.g., NIH) funding or equivalent with full indirect cost recovery.

**Eligibility:** Faculty meeting the following criteria are eligible to apply:

1. Earned doctorate
2. Assistant Professor or higher rank in the academic track

**Application Materials:** The application packet shall include the following items:

1. Cover sheet
2. Long-term Goal Statement that includes:
   a. the outcome/purpose of overall research program, i.e., what would be the main product of this line of investigation?

   **Example:** The long-term goal of this research program is to develop an effective, theory-driven intervention to eliminate pressure ulcers in community-residing adults who are long-term wheel-chair users.

   b. a scholarly summary of the clinical and scientific significance of the research program.

   Describe the current status of the clinical problem. If you were addressing the example above, say what is wrong or not working about current care and why a new intervention is needed. Identify and describe the scientific issue to be addressed by the research program. Are we lacking a theory of pressure ulcer healing? Or, how is the current theory or evidence supporting current practice found lacking? Use literature to support both the clinical and scientific argument for significance.

   c. the appeal of this outcome/purpose to specific potential funder(s), i.e., what priorities of specific potential funders does this program address?

   Is there a funding agency interested in this problem? Demonstrate support for this interest from the funding agency, e.g., document, web-site, strategic plan, call for abstracts. Be specific.

   d. an analysis of the gaps in scientific knowledge necessary to fill in reaching the overarching goal.

   Describe what is unknown today that must be known for the overall goal of the program of research to be met? Be as specific as possible about the knowledge gaps that prevent implementation of the goal now. For example, we do not understand
why a proven intervention works for young people but does not work for old people. Or, we do not know why a proven intervention is unacceptable to (rejected by) certain people. We do not understand how to overcome some specified limitation of the existing intervention, e.g., it fails after 3 mo.

3. Statement of objectives for the period of dedicated research time to include:
   a. specific gap(s) in one’s expertise necessary to fill to reach the outcome/purpose of the research program and how achieving the proposed goals will fill (or help to fill) the gap(s)

   Identify why you are unable to pursue the long-term goal without further growth. What is it that you now do not yet know or cannot yet do that is necessary for you to know or do in order to meet the long term goal of your research program. For the example, using the earlier sample goal, do you need experience with the measurement of pressure ulcers, or do we need to test the feasibility of the approach in the target population.

   b. objectives to be achieved during the period of dedicated research time

   State your objectives for the period of dedicated research time. Your objectives should indicate how you will grow as a scientist during this period. What part of 3.a above will you fill in through this experience? What information, knowledge, skill, resource or experience do you plan to gain here? In what way will you be better equipped to pursue this program of research because of this dedicated time?

   c. ways in which these objectives relate to specific gap(s) in scientific knowledge

   Describe how attaining your stated objectives will begin to fill in the knowledge gaps described in 2.d above. If the example in 2.a was your objective, will you learn what differs in the healing process of young and old people? Or, demonstrate that you are able to gain access to a pool of people who have the problem?

   d. a summary of one’s base of prior research, scholarly activity, clinical and other expertise (e.g., methodological) relevant to the overarching research program goal

   Describe why you are suited to pursue this particular program of research. What about your background and your present circumstances positions you to undertake this work? Explain why the CON should invest in you to do this.

4. Workplan and timeline for goal achievement to include:
   a. outline/list of the approach, tasks, skill-building activities, work to be done to meet each objective

   b. links between items in a above and months within the proposed period of dedicated research time

5. A statement of deliverables (scholarly products) that will demonstrate goal achievement

   Enumerate and describe the scope of specific outcomes that will result from your work. For example, if you are planning to conduct a literature review, state what the tangible product(s) will be, such as a section of a grant application to (funding agency?) using (what guidelines?) _____ and a manuscript for (target journal) addressing the following purpose statement: ________________
Directions:
1. Use the list of materials above to structure your application. Number and letter each section of your application to correspond with the list of materials.
2. Be as specific as you can in addressing each part of the application.
3. Section 2b is expected to be written in an analytic and scholarly fashion, as if it were part of a grant application or manuscript.
4. Section 2c is expected to reflect leg work that assesses the availability of funding for research in the area that you are proposing.
5. Be sure to obtain signatures of your Department Chair and the Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation. This will require that you discuss your idea and application with each of them at least one time.

Helpful suggestions
1. Seek clarification if the application materials are not clear to you.
2. Remember this is a request for resources dedicated to your work. You are trying to convince a group of reviewers and CON administration of two things: 1) that the direction that you are heading in is a worthwhile investment for the CON to make, i.e., it has scientific value and funding potential, and 2) that you are likely to succeed in pursuing the goal. These are two fundamental premises that you will have to support for any funding agency, so this is good practice.
3. Allow yourself plenty of lead time to prepare the application. It will require thought about your interests, readiness, and commitment and it will take work to prepare.
4. Ask a trusted person to review drafts of your application and provide constructive criticism. Do this at more than one point during the preparation, as your ideas will evolve with time. Remember that the Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation can serve as a coach in this process.
5. Consider that the scope of what you are proposing to do is roughly equivalent in effort to teaching two courses.

Terms:
1. All awardees of dedicated research time are expected to attend a two-hour monthly group meeting throughout the period of support. In meetings individuals will discuss their work and progress toward achieving objectives and obtain input, resources, and support from colleagues.
2. All awardees are expected to submit a grant for external funding within two years of the award start date.
3. All awardees are expected to attend and participate in the annual conference of MNRS and present their work (as a poster or paper), if it is suitable to do so. At least partial support for attendance will be provided; support will be larger for those presenting a paper or poster. A report back to the monthly group meeting will be expected.