Call for New Junior Investigators for the COBRE in Stroke Recovery Research at MUSC

The Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Stroke Recovery is an NIH-supported multidisciplinary, translational research center that supports projects in stroke recovery from basic science work in animals through Phase I/II clinical trials. A renewal application will be submitted in September 2017 for an additional 5-yr project period with an April 1, 2019 start date. We are soliciting applications for 3-5 Junior Investigators (JI) to be included in the renewal. A JI must have an MUSC faculty position (no postdocs at time of application), be willing to devote a significant portion of their research program to stroke recovery, commit 6 calendar months per year to their COBRE research project, and cannot have had NIH R01 funding (or equivalent) as PI. The project must be in an area related to stroke recovery (can be in basic, clinical or population sciences), will have a yearly budget of approximately $50,000/year (in addition to 50% salary support) and requires the submission of an R01 application at the end of the second year of COBRE support. It is expected by NIH that JIs will be COBRE-supported for approximately 3 years before moving to independent research support. The COBRE will provide extensive mentoring for JIs, including matching them with a primary mentor.

An important criterion in review of potential JI projects is the synergy of their proposed research with the COBRE scientific cores. The COBRE in Stroke Recovery has established four fully staffed, full service scientific core resources to support stroke recovery research: the Quantitative Behavioral Assessment and Rehabilitation Core provides resources for kinematic, kinetic, EMG and metabolic cost assessments and rehabilitation protocols; the Brain Stimulation Core provides TMS-based neurophysiological assessments and supports rTMS and tDCS protocols for rehabilitation; the NeuroImaging Core provides structural and functional MRI, MR spectroscopy analyses and high-density EEG analyses; and the Clinical & Translational Tools and Resources Core provides subject recruitment resources, a bioinformatics-enabled database registry and biostatistical support. The cores also provide services for basic research in animal models.

Interested investigators are strongly encouraged to meet with COBRE Director, Steve Kautz (kautz@musc.edu) very early in the process. To be considered for a JI position, provide the following as a single pdf to Dr. Kautz by February 28, 2017:

1. Research program vision (1-2 pages, think of it like a cover letter you would write if applying for a position as a COBRE investigator) that includes:
   a. Topics of interest and connections to stroke recovery.
   b. Discussion of R01 submission(s) planned by the end of Year 2 of support.
   c. How your project would use COBRE cores.
   d. Potential collaborators within the COBRE (see http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/srrc/).
2. Specific Aims page for proposed research project.
3. Biosketch (NIH format).

We have created a unique opportunity for potential JIs to receive feedback on their ideas from COBRE leadership, COBRE investigators and renowned experts in stroke recovery research from across the country. On January 18, 2017, as part of the Annual Meeting for the COBRE in Stroke Recovery, we will host a poster session to showcase stroke recovery research being done at MUSC. Prospective JIs are strongly encouraged to present an aspirational poster on their proposed research. This will allow for constructive feedback from leadership and attendees, as well as identification of possible collaborations with current COBRE investigators. Contact Dr. Kautz for information on how to take advantage of this opportunity.

The COBRE in Stroke Recovery Research comprises an active, productive team of investigators with an established culture of active participation. New JIs will be expected to attend a monthly two-hour meeting and numerous additional mentoring and scientific development activities sponsored by the COBRE commensurate with the 50% effort they will be dedicating to their approved project. Ideally, participation will begin upon selection as a new JI. Prospective JIs must be comfortable collaborating with a research team and be good team players. What we are building is bigger than just the COBRE grant – we are working hard to build an internationally known stroke recovery research program at MUSC.