



MEDICAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA

Year 05 Mentored Research Award

CALL FOR APPLICATION

The purpose of the MEPIN Mentored research award is to support the development of research scientists through provision of funds for a one year pilot project. This mechanism is aimed toward postgraduate students/resident doctors and junior faculty members with basic science, clinical and/or epidemiological research interest and who have an innovative research idea, are attempting to initiate a new research project, or aim to generate some preliminary data that will be used for applications to future grant opportunities. The award supports a one-year period of supervised research experience that may integrate laboratory with clinical or epidemiologic based research. The proposed research should have both research importance and be a suitable method for learning the skills necessary for an independent research career. Research topics are on MEPIN priority health areas- HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, mental health and chronic diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer or any other communicable and non-communicable diseases. Applicants for this award should indicate a mentor who will commit to guiding the applicant through the project. Because of the focus on progression to independence, the prospective candidate should propose a project that is consistent with this goal and **his or her previous work and/or clinical experience**. This program does not include projects involving clinical trial of any form or scope.

Term: 1 year

Number of awards: 2 or more per MEPIN institution, listed below

Award amount: Maximum of N 750,000

Eligibility:

- Postgraduate students/resident doctors or junior faculty members (five years or less) at University of Ibadan, Ahmadu Bello University, University of Jos, University of Lagos, University of Maiduguri, and University of Nigeria.
- Completion of MEPIN CITI online Course

Types of Application:

Initial research/pilot projects: This is meant for investigators with or without any previous or current independent research support. The main goal is to provide support a junior investigator to carry out mentored research that will provide the background for an application to another funding agency in the future.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria.

2. Applications must be completed, signed and include the following documents:

- a. Application letter to the program officer, MEPIN Mentored Research Program, UI
- b. Title page
- c. Abstract describing the research (500 words or less)
- d. NIH-form biosketch of the Investigator and mentor(s)

(See www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc for more details)

e. Budget: The budget must cover the activities for the 1-year time period. The budget may not include salary support, international travel, bench/field assistant, workshop/conference attendance fees, or indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs).

- f. Budget justification: The justification must include a detailed explanation for the expenses noted in the budget. Describe the role of each person listed under Personnel.
- g. Project Narrative: 2-3 sentences explaining how the awarding of these funds will enhance opportunities for conducting future research or acquiring other funding.
- h. Research Plan
- h.i. Specific aims (1/2 page)
- h.ii. Background and Significance
- h.iii. Preliminary Data (2-3 sentences) – this section is not required if there are no preliminary data
- h.iv. Experimental Design and Methods (1-2 pages): Describe the data collection methods, analytical plan, and data management plan, as relevant.
- h.v. References: list all references cited in the Research Plan
- h.vi. Plan for Protection of Human Subjects: Describe the risks/benefits to the study participants, your method of collecting informed consent (as relevant), and your plans to safeguard the patient's information.
- i. Letters of support from mentor indicating the mentor's commitment to serve in this role for the proposed research.
- j. IRB Approval: Projects that involve human participants.
- k. Evidence of completing a MEPIN CITI Course (Certificate). Follow the direction below to register and take the MEPI CITI course. This is a mandatory requirement for this program.
Google CITI home page (<https://www.citiprogram.org/>) →click register now→ select MEPIN as participating institution →proceed to create your password and complete registration →take course/exam and print certificate
- n. Personal Information page:
- n.i. Mentor: Name, departmental contact address, email(s), phone number(s), MEPIN CITI number
- n.ii. Mentee: Name, departmental contact address, email(s), phone number(s), MEPIN CITI number

Submission of application: applications are now submitted on the MEPIN website (<http://www.mepi-nigeria.org.ng>)

Application open date: Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Application expiry date: Midnight of Friday, November 7, 2014

For more enquiry email mepin201@gmail.com, info@mepi-nigeria.org.ng or call 02-2912177, 08090707817

Evaluation

All applications will be evaluated by the MEPIN Research Review Committee. Evaluation will be based on: investigator ability, scientific merit, relevance, and potential for generating subsequent funding and publications. We encourage applications in areas related to basic, clinical, and/or epidemiological approaches to the priority areas of this program.

Reviewers will provide a written evaluation of the application along with a numerical score. The reviews and scores will be taken into consideration in the final funding decisions. Written critiques of the proposed research will be provided to applicants with scores above 4, all others will only receive a numerical score.

Reporting Requirements

Investigators are required to notify the selection committee in writing of significant changes in the focus of the research, conduct of the research plan, or changes in budgeting plans during the course of the project.

An interim progress report is due at 6 months, to both the review committee and the mentor. The interim progress reports must include a statement on the progress to date, copy of final approval letters (e.g. IRB approval), and additional collaborations.

Within 30 days of completing the project, the investigator must submit a final progress report stating preliminary scientific findings, a report of any possible research applications that are built out of the project, and any publications that resulted from the pilot project. The investigator will be required to give an oral presentation to the MEPIN research review committee on the details of their research work and their subsequent findings at the conclusion of the project.