



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### **Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical Research Collaborative Research Center Awards**

#### **Statement of Purpose**

The Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical Research (DHFMR) was established in March 2006, with support from HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, and a group of private philanthropists.

In January 2008, the DFHFMR announced its first two Collaborative Research Center Awards and first two post-doctoral Research Fellowship Awards. The DHFMR Collaborative Research Center Awards were given to innovative research collaborations between laboratories and research centers located at Harvard Medical School and laboratories and research centers in the Middle East region ([http://www.dhfmr.hms.harvard.edu/2007\\_award\\_recipients.html](http://www.dhfmr.hms.harvard.edu/2007_award_recipients.html)). Both the Collaborative Research Center Awards and the Research Fellowship Awards are intended to give recipients the flexibility to explore fundamental scientific questions that lead to a better understanding of the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.

DHFMR plans to support at least two additional multi-year collaborative research initiatives each year. Beginning in January 2009, DHFMR will make two further Collaborative Research Center Awards that will provide \$350,000 per year for a maximum of five years to partnerships between established or developing Harvard Medical School, Harvard University or Harvard Medical School affiliated research programs or laboratories, and established or developing research programs or laboratories located at research institutions in the Middle East Region.

In addition to the DHFMR Collaborative Research Center Awards and post-doctoral Research Fellowship Awards, DHFMR intends to provide funding to support conceptual or early stage collaborations through the *Seed Grant Awards Program* ([http://www.dhfmr.hms.harvard.edu/seed\\_grants\\_2008.html](http://www.dhfmr.hms.harvard.edu/seed_grants_2008.html)).

DHFMR Collaborative Research Center Awards are designed to support research programs that bring novel ideas and new approaches to medical, biomedical or translational research. The DHFMR Collaborative Research Centers will be the bridge between the Harvard Medical School research community and academic research programs, organizations or institutions in the Middle East Region. The research proposals should focus on health issues or diseases that are endemic in the Middle East or particularly relevant to the population of the region.

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DHFMR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTER AWARDS**

**The Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical Research (DHFMR) invites submission of formal proposals from the collaborative initiatives that have already submitted a Letter of Intent and made a presentation at the May 15, 2008 *Partners in Research* Conference in Boston.**

DHFMR intends to give two Collaborative Research Center Awards to establish DHFMR Collaborative Research Centers, with funding available January 1, 2009. The Awards will provide support to both the Harvard-based research collaborator(s) and the research collaborator(s) based in the Middle East region

Each award will grant up to \$350,000 per year, for a maximum of 5 years, to the collaboration. The allocation of the funds will be based on the budget submitted by the collaborative partners; DHFMR will support up to 20% of any institution's overhead or indirect cost requirement, which must be reflected in the proposed budget. Successful collaborations will receive funding from DHFMR for up to five years, based on the results of an annual review.

The Harvard-based research partner will be expected to provide specialized training opportunities at Harvard Medical School or affiliated institutions at the post-doctoral level for young investigators and junior faculty from the Middle East in coordination with the regional research partner. These young investigators should be at the beginning or early stages of their research career and must demonstrate outstanding promise in a field relevant to the Center's focus. These trainees should be selected for their leadership potential and will work closely with the Research Center's principal and co-investigators, post-doctoral fellows and other laboratory staff.

Upon completion of any training period, these post-doctoral trainees will be expected to return to their country of origin to become a key link between the DHFMR Collaborative Research Center and the broader regional research community. Funding for the trainees (up to three years) will be in addition to the award allocated to the Research Center. Applicants for the DHFMR Collaborative Research Centers Awards should submit a separate budget for one or two trainees who may become part of their Center.

Proposed research activities may draw upon recent advances in the basic medical and biomedical sciences – including such fields as biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, molecular biology, and pharmacology – that provide new opportunities for alleviating human disease. It is hoped that the assurance provided by DHFMR-funded awards will encourage successful applicants to be innovative in their research endeavors, to publish their research and to pursue further applications for support both during and at the conclusion of the award period.

The deadline for application submission is September 1, 2008. The recipients of the DHFMR Collaborative Research Center Awards will be notified in December 2008 by the DHFMR Board of Trustees. Successful candidate collaborations will be identified as a DHFMR Collaborative Research Centers and should plan to begin operating on – or as soon as possible after - January 1, 2009.

## APPLYING FOR A DHFMR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTER AWARD

### Eligibility Requirements

DHFMR Collaborative Research Center Awards are open to collaborative research programs, laboratories and centers at Harvard Medical School, Harvard University or affiliated institutions and their counterpart(s) in the Middle East Region. Each program, laboratory or center should be headed by individuals with a doctorate in medicine, a PhD in medicine or other health related field or in biomedical sciences. **Candidate programs, laboratories or centers must already have submitted a Letter of Intent and presented their proposed research at the May 15, 2008 Partners in Research Conference in Boston.**

Candidate programs, laboratories or centers should have outstanding promise as contributors to science relevant to human health. DHFMR will favor proposals that demonstrate an innovative and creative approach to medical or biomedical research, and whose research focus is relevant to the population groups within the Middle East Region. The added value created by the proposed collaboration will be an important determinant in funding decisions.

Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Harvard Medical School, Harvard University Department Chair or equivalent (on behalf of the Harvard-based partner/s), and a letter of support from the Medical School Dean or Research Center Director or equivalent (on behalf of the Middle East-based partner/s).

### Selection Criteria

The DHFMR Scientific Advisory Committee will assemble an independent *ad hoc* Scientific Review Committee to review all applications and make recommendations to the Scientific Advisory Committee. The Scientific Advisory Committee will make final recommendations for funding to the DHFMR Board of Trustees who will ratify all awards and notify successful candidates.

Selection will be based on:

- Qualifications of the candidate research programs' Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators and their potential to conduct innovative research
- Unique added value created by the proposed collaboration
- Demonstration of track record
- Quality and originality of the proposed research – proposals that contain novel approaches will be considered more competitive
- Viability of the proposed collaboration between the Harvard Medical School laboratory or center and the Middle East -based laboratory or center
- Commitment to training and mentoring early career post-doctoral researchers

- Detailed evidence from both partner laboratories that the research facilities are adequate for the proposed research and that the HMS-based facility can accommodate one or two trainee researchers per year
- Principal Investigator's and Co-Investigators' willingness to travel between the USA and the Middle East

### **Terms**

- The successful candidate collaborations will be identified as DHFMR Collaborative Research Centers. All DHMFR Collaborative Research Centers must provide the DHFMR Board of Trustees with an annual progress report to include scientific progress, mentoring activities and a detailed financial report at least 30 days prior to the end of each award year. Continued funding will depend on the favorable review of these reports by the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees.
- During the award period (up to 5 years), unused research funds may be carried over to the succeeding year. Any unused funds held by either Research Center partner when awards expire must be returned to DHFMR unless the DHFMR has granted prior permission to retain the funds.
- DHFMR Research Centers may obtain funds from other sources for research in the same or similar areas as that conducted under the Collaborative Research Center Awards, provided that there is no conflict with the terms of DHFMR's award.
- Scientific publications or presentations coming from a DHFMR Research Center must acknowledge the receipt of a DHFMR Collaborative Research Center Award. Copies of journal articles and other publications should be sent to DHFMR with the annual progress report
- Award recipients should follow their institutions' patent, copyright, intellectual property, and conflict of interest policies regarding discoveries that result from research conducted under these awards. Award recipients are expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the participation of human subjects, and the use of animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in their research projects. DHFMR expects the appropriate federal, state, local, national and regional guidelines with regard to scientific misconduct are in place and enforced at all institutions with which DHFMR award recipients are affiliated.

## **COMPLETING THE APPLICATION**

**The application should contain the following sections:**

### **Title Page and Introduction:**

Applicant Information

Names and contact information of the Principal Investigators

Letters of Support from Institution Head, Department Chair or Head of Research  
**(no more than one page)**

Lay Abstract **(no more than one page)**

### **CVs and statements:**

Biosketch of all Principal and Co-Investigators **(not to exceed two pages per person)**

Statements of Collaboration **(no more than one page)**

### **Proposal (no more than 12 pages), to include:**

Scientific Abstract

Research Plan (to include a clear hypothesis, aims and research purpose)

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Facilities and Resources

Budget

IRB or Animal Approval Forms (if applicable)

### **Bibliography**

**The deadline for submission of proposals is September 1, 2008.** Successful candidates will be notified by the DHFMR Board of Trustees during December 2008, and funding will become effective January 1, 2009.

**Please also submit by July 1, 2008** the names, titles and full contact information of **at least 3, and no more than 5, potential independent reviewers** familiar with your field of research who are NOT members of the faculty or researchers at Harvard Medical School, Harvard University or Harvard-affiliated hospitals or institutions. DHFMR will use these recommendations to select the members of the Scientific Review Committee, as part of the peer-review process.

Please submit proposals to:

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