



IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence

December 8, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

The **Arkansas IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (AR INBRE)** is pleased to announce the fifth year of the **Mentored Research Program** offering competitive fellowships to faculty and students from primarily undergraduate colleges and universities in Arkansas. The central goals of the Mentored Research Program are to increase the number of college and university faculty in Arkansas with active, funded research in biomedical science, and to increase the number of undergraduate students in Arkansas who pursue graduate school and careers in biomedical science. This program is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Research Resources (NIH/NCRR).

There are several changes to the student **Mentored Research Program** this year, the biggest change is that the program will run for ten weeks rather than eight as in previous years (May 30, 2006 – August 4, 2006). The second change is in the student application. Students are to select their first and second choice of the campus where they would like to do their summer fellowship, along with their top three choices of mentors at each of the two campuses. Students will be placed at one of the two campuses they indicate according to availability of mentors. Every effort will be made to match students to a mentor of their choice. However, keep in mind that occasions do arise when this is not possible.

The student summer research program is open to all Arkansas undergraduate math and science majors. Again, this year the program offers two tracks, one for the science majors (e.g., biology & chemistry) who are interested in pursuing a career in biomedical research. A second track designed specifically for math and computer science majors is available for students who are interested in learning more about how to apply their math and computer skills in the area of biomedical research. Undergraduate students interested in applying for either of these summer fellowships should visit the AR INBRE web site for additional information and an online application. Selection criteria for the fellowship will include student's GPA, faculty recommendations from the applicant's home institution, and evidence for inclination toward a career in research.

Faculty applying for a fellowship should contact a potential mentor at one of the lead institutions, with a research area of common interest (visit the web site, <http://brin.uams.edu> for potential mentors). The prospective team (faculty and mentor) should then jointly prepare a written proposal. The criteria for evaluating these proposals will include training potential and experience of the mentor, potential for future extramural funding of the collaboration, progress from a previous AR BRIN fellowship award, if applicable, and potential for continuation of the project with involvement of undergraduate students, during the academic year. Inclusion of women and minority participants is highly encouraged.

Each fellowship includes a salary stipend, research supply budget and participation cost allowance (*i.e.*, housing, mileage and parking). An ad hoc committee will review all applications and recommend funding for up to 4 faculty fellowships and up to 14 student fellowships.

Enclosed you will find brochures and applications for both the faculty and student programs. Please distribute these materials to students and faculty members within your department. All applications are due by February 24, 2006. Students may apply online at the INBRE web site. Feel free to contact us for help in choosing a mentor. For additional information, we invite you to visit the INBRE website, <http://brin.uams.edu> or to call us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Cornett".

Lawrence Cornett, PhD
Professor and BRIN Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Bobbitt".

Donald Bobbitt, PhD
Professor, Director INBRE Outreach Core