



Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network

January 13, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

The **Arkansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN)** is pleased to announce the fourth 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).

The **Mentored Research Program** runs for 8 weeks (May 31, 2005 – July 22, 2005) and involves collaborative research at one of the BRIN lead institutions: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF) University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) or the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Each faculty or student fellowship includes a salary stipend, research supply budget and participation cost allowance (*i.e.*, housing, mileage and parking). The BRIN Mentoring Advisory Committee will review all applications and recommend funding for up to 4 faculty fellowships and up to 14 student fellowships.

Faculty applying for a fellowship should contact a potential mentor at one of the lead institutions, with a research area of common interest (see the enclosed list or the AR BRIN web site, <http://brin.uams.edu> for potential mentors). The prospective team (faculty and mentor) will 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.

The student summer research program is open to all undergraduate math and science majors. 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 BRIN web site for additional information and an online application. Students are asked to identify three potential research areas/mentors from the list of Thematic Research Areas (see the enclosed list or the AR BRIN web site, <http://brin.uams.edu>). Every effort will be made to match students to one of the three research areas they identify in their application. Selection criteria for the fellowship will include faculty recommendations from the applicant's home institution, GPA, and evidence for inclination toward a career in research.

Enclosed you will find brochures and applications for both the faculty and student programs. Students may also apply online at the BRIN web site. Please distribute these materials to students and faculty members within your department. All applications are due by February 25, 2005. Feel free to contact us for help in choosing a mentor. For additional information, we invite you to visit the BRIN website, <http://brin.uams.edu> or to call us.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Cornett, PhD
Professor and BRIN Director

Helen Beneš, PhD
Associate Professor and BRIN Associate Director