



MAY 4th, 2009

CHANCELLORS
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

EMMA FERNANDEZ REPOLLET
VP FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

R15-Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) GRANTS

We would like for you to be aware of NIH's Recovery Act Limited Competition: **R15-Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)** under RFA-OD-09-007. The purpose of the AREA program is to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. These AREA grants create opportunities for scientists and institutions otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH programs, to contribute to the Nation's biomedical and behavioral research effort. AREA grants are intended to support small-scale health-related research projects proposed by faculty members of institutions like the University of Puerto Rico.

The President of the UPR would like for every eligible campus/unit to submit a proposal / application for this competition. If you do not plan to do so you must notify our office as soon as possible and justify your decision. Attached, please find a list that we have prepared of the campuses/units at the University of Puerto Rico that are eligible to participate in this program. You can notify us about your plans by e-mail: e.fernandez@upr.edu

It is anticipated that investigators supported under the AREA program will benefit from the opportunity to conduct independent research; that the University of Puerto Rico will benefit from a research environment strengthened through AREA grants and sustained by participation in the numerous and diverse extramural programs of the NIH; and that students will benefit from exposure to and participation in scientific research in the biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences.

The three goals of the AREA program are:

- to support meritorious research,

- to strengthen the research environment of the institution, and
- to expose students to research.

The AREA program is primarily a research grant program and not a training or fellowship program. Active involvement of undergraduate and graduate students in the proposed research is encouraged.

AREA grants may support praiseworthy projects in biomedical, behavioral research or clinical research, including:

- pilot research projects and feasibility studies
- development, testing, and refinement of research techniques
- secondary analysis of available data sets
- similar discrete research projects that demonstrate research capability

Applicant investigators may request a maximum of \$300,000 direct costs for the entire project period that could be between one and three years. Indirect Costs (F&A) do not count toward this amount.

The AREA website (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm>) lists the AREA program representative for each of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs). Also listed on this website are the research objectives of the NIH ICs and their web sites.

Additional AREA Grant Information can be found through the links below.

- [RFA-OD-09-007](#) or
 - <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-007.html>
- [AREA contacts](#) - Persons to contact regarding AREA funding opportunities and questions about IC research interests.
- [AREA Grant Research Objectives](#) (MS Word - 58 KB)
- [AREA FAQs](#) – Frequently Asked Questions
- [Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research](#) - Principal Investigators holding an active Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15) Grant also may apply for a supplement under this program. Grantees must check with the appropriate awarding component before an application for a supplement is submitted.
- [Review Criteria for AREA Applications](#) - AREA applications are evaluated using the standard NIH review criteria for unsolicited research grants. Reviewers will assess the AREA-specific programmatic features of an application under the Investigator and Environment criteria.
- NIH will **require** [Electronic Submission](#) of the [SF424 \(R&R\) form](#) through Grants.gov for all AREA grants (R15).

Do not hesitate to contact Mr. Eddie Cruet (eddie.cruet@upr.edu) if you need additional information.