BIO5 Fellowships to Develop Collaborative Life Sciences Projects

A major priority for BIO5 is to promote and foster collaborations among UA faculty to pursue research projects in the life sciences relevant to BIO5’s mandates and priorities. BIO5’s main areas of focus are: computational and informatic approaches to the life sciences; neurosciences, especially as it applies to the BRAIN initiative; drug discovery and development, and novel bioimaging and sensing technologies. It has become apparent, however, that a major obstacle for advancement in such projects has been the need for many faculty members to fulfill other academic obligations such as service and teaching. With limited availability of dedicated time focused on research, many meritorious projects are never fully implemented.

To address this need, BIO5 is providing support for Fellowships to allow the full implementation of collaborative projects from at least two faculty members from any UA college, with at least one having their main appointment in non-Arizona Health Sciences Center (AHSC) colleges. BIO5 will provide $15,000 to the department head of the successful applicants to release the faculty member from his/her teaching/service obligations and transfer the obligation to others. Funding for one additional semester may be requested, but will be contingent on successful completion of milestones/goals proposed for the first semester in the application. It will be the responsibility of applicants to ensure that their department head approves the release from obligations. BIO5 Fellowships are supported by TRIF funding, which is subject to restricted spending. Specific award guidelines will be detailed in the Notice of Award and Letter of Acceptance.

Deadline for responding to this RFP is September 26, 2014, at 4 PM. Please email applications to beckette@BIO5.org.

Requirements:

1. Applications may address any research area within the life sciences. Potential for external funding resulting from the funded project is a requirement, and needs to be explicitly described. Preference will be given to projects that fit within BIO5’s mandate and priorities (see above) and provide evidence of prospective translational applications. Proposals should state explicitly how they advance Never Settle goals.

2. Applications must be co-directed by 2 or more faculty members, although funding for salary support will only be available for up to 2 individuals within any single application. Preference will be given to applicants who have either a history of previous successful collaboration, or who have already developed common, documented work within the context of the research project proposed in the application.

3. The application should be limited to 4 pages, and should contain:
   a. Specific Aims (1/2 page).
   b. History of collaboration between scientists involved in the project (1/2 page).
   c. Research Plan (2 1/2 pages), including potential for external funding and translational applications and description of milestones/goals to be achieved at the end of the first semester.
   d. Address how the project advances BIO5’s mandate and priorities as well as Never Settle goals (1/2 page).

Additional information may be obtained from Liz Firmage at beckette@BIO5.org.