

Call for Applications

EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH, RESEARCH ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AND TRAINING (PROJECT EXPORT)

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and South Carolina State University (SCSU) direct one of 20 Centers of Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training (Project EXPORT). The focus of the EXPORT Center at SCSU & MUSC is the metabolic syndrome, a cluster of disorders, including hypertension, diabetes, lipid abnormalities and obesity, which have a strong impact on health disparities, and which are particularly burdensome for residents of South Carolina.

The MUSC/SCSU EXPORT Pilot Program is a one-year program that provides support for up to 2 pilot projects (up to \$15,000 per project) in patient-oriented research for graduate or post graduate students, clinical fellows, or junior faculty from SCSU or MUSC. The period of funding will be from the date of the award in fall 2006 through August 31, 2007.

Eligible applicants must be minority investigators who have not yet received independent funding. The pilot projects should be designed as vehicles to collect preliminary data for subsequent competitive application (e.g. K-awards, R03, and R01 awards). The focus of the pilot research should be patient-oriented research on the metabolic syndrome and its components in underrepresented minorities. Patient-oriented research includes clinical research, nursing research, education research, health services research, epidemiological studies, and community-based interventions. Priority will be given to proposals that tie into EXPORT Cores and programs or other sponsored minority research projects at MUSC and SCSU. Investigators should plan their project such that it can be completed by August 31, 2007.

Applications must be submitted by **October 1, 2006** and must include:

(1) a research proposal (maximum of 3 pages) containing a statement of the problem (including specific aims and background/rationale), method to be used, anticipated results, and discussion of how planned efforts will lead to future funding; (2) a 1-page letter of support from a primary mentor who will guide the applicant during the one-year period of funding; (3) Biographical Sketches for the investigator and mentor in the standard PHS 398 format; (4) a 1-page signed letter from the applicant summarizing career development plans and committing to set aside a half-day per week for career development activities on site at MUSC or SCSU, and (5) budget and justification on the standard PHS 398 form.

Three independent reviewers will review all applications. Selected applicants (two) will be notified in mid-October for funding that will begin November 1, 2006. Questions regarding the application procedures should be directed to Dr. Koopman, or to Ms. Robin McNeal in the MUSC Office of Special Initiatives, 843-792-2136.

Please send application materials to:

Richelle Koopman, MD, MS
EXPORT Pilot Core Director
Medical University of South Carolina
Department of Family Medicine
295 Calhoun Street
P.O. Box 250192
Charleston, South Carolina 29425
Tel: 843-792-8112
Fax: 843-792-3598
E-mail: koopmanr@musc.edu