

**RESEARCH ON SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI)
REQUEST FOR CONTRACTS (RFC)
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES IN SOUTH CAROLINA
ISSUED BY THE SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH FUND BOARD**

*Brian G. Cuddy, MD(Chair), David Griesemer, MD, Terry Peacock, Phanor L. Perot, MD, PhD, David L. Shallcross,
MD, John H. Stevens, M.Ed. and W. Daniel Westerkam, MD*

**BRIDGE FUNDING
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

ADMINISTERED BY THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA (MUSC)

**Date of Release: 2006
Deadline for Submission: Open 2006**

Background: Amendment (Bill S54 44-38-510) to Section 2, Chapter 38, Title 44 of the 1976 S.C. Code was ratified on July 20, 2000 and authorized the new South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund provided from a \$100 surcharge on each Driving Under the Influence (DUI) conviction. The Fund is administered by new Spinal Cord Injury Research Board appointed by the Governor, and was attached to MUSC for staff and administrative purposes. The law authorizes Fund use to cover basic operating and administrative costs, but directed that the balance be provided for spinal cord injury research projects.

SCI is a serious and seldom reversible cause of disability. Often traumatic in origin, it may also result from inflammatory, neoplastic, developmental, or rarely infectious causes. The consequences of SCI are legion, including paralysis of legs and arms, even muscles of respiration; loss of sensation and autonomic control; chronic pain; impairment of bowel, bladder, and sexual dysfunction; metabolic disorders such as hypercalcemia; muscle spasticity with contractures of joints, fractures, and heterotopic ossification; complications such as decubitus ulcers, uncontrolled blood pressure, and frequent infections. People with SCI may face extraordinary demands due to the costs of medical care, limitations in rehabilitation resources after profound loss of mobility, and the absence of environmental supports. The spouses and children of people SCI also face additional demands and the cost of care to families and the residents of South Carolina is extraordinary and ongoing. The long-term goal of this research initiative is to minimize the risk and incidence of SCI, interrupt or reverse the process of SCI, and improve the health and quality of life for residents of South Carolina with SCI.

Request For Applications: The South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Board invites applications for bridge support funding. The goal of this request for proposals is to provide any investigator with a research program in spinal cord injury with a research grant whose NIH competing continuation application was not funded an opportunity to obtain one year of bridge support.

Eligibility and Terms of Support: Applications will be accepted from investigators in South Carolina who have a research program in spinal cord injury with a research grant whose NIH competing continuation application was not funded expertise in performing

feasibility studies for services. The investigator must have already unsuccessfully applied for all available institutional interim funds, such as departmental or university based funding (e.g., URC interim funds at MUSC).

The applicant must provide a statement of need to the SCSCIRF Scientific Directors addressing the following criteria:

- 1) the critique sheets of the unfunded proposal,
- 2) the 3-page introduction to address the specific concerns of the review panel,
- 3) new and projected progress prior to resubmission.
- 4) a simple budget and a budget justification for the interim funds,
- 5) a list of the funds currently available for no cost extensions and other support.

Funding: Awards up to \$50,000 can be requested for one year. Consideration for an award is the demonstrated need by the investigator for such funds to support the laboratory until a revised application for extramural support is funded. If the extramural proposal is funded prior to the end of the bridging funds or if the funds are not expended at the end of 1 year the funds must be returned. The funds may not be used to cover the PI's salary. The Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund does not provide support for indirect costs and any such related costs essential to the proposed research should be included in the direct cost budget request.

Timeframes: The review of all proposals will be completed within 60 days following the receipt of the application. The South Carolina SCI Research Board will make money available within 30 days following a recommendation for funding by the Review Committee and approval.

Review Process: The SCSCIRF Scientific Directors will meet as needed to consider the requests.

Submission Address: Grant applications should be submitted to Naren L. Banik, PhD, Associate Scientific Director, South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund, c/o Fund Administrator, Office of the President, Medical University of South Carolina, PO Box 250001, Charleston, SC 29425.

Application Format: The proposal must include the 3 page introduction for the NIH resubmission, as well as attaching the reviews. The face page must be completed and include an abstract on an attached page.

Please submit the original and six copies.

Review Criteria: Proposals will be reviewed based solely on the value of the research program to SCI research in the state of South Carolina and the likelihood that the NIH project will receive a competitive renewal.

Awarding of Funds: Award based upon applicable South Carolina policies, procedures, and laws concerning the expenditure of State funds.

For Questions or Additional Information: Potential applicants should contact Dr. James Krause, Scientific Director or Dr. Naren Banik, Associate Director, South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund.

James S. Krause, Ph.D.
krause@musc.edu
843-792-1337

Naren L. Banik, Ph.D.
baniknl@musc.edu
843-792-7594

FACE PAGE
SOUTH CAROLINA SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH FUND
Bridge Funding

Title of Project: _____

Name of Principal Investigator: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Amount Requested: \$_____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Signatures

Principal Investigator _____

Authorized Institutional Official _____

(Submit Abstract on a separate page.)