

November 2, 2009

TO: Consortium Members, Joint Degree Program Governing Committee Members, and relevant Deans, Directors, Department Heads/Chairs

FROM: Prof. Susan Wolf, Chair, Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences

RE: Consortium--Request for Proposals (RFP) to fund work on the societal implications of the life sciences by **Consortium members and Joint Degree Program partners (Summer '10 & AY '10-11)**

DEADLINE: February 8, 2010 or until funds are depleted

SUBMIT TO: boyle032@umn.edu

The University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences (www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu) invites proposals from Consortium member centers and graduate or professional programs or departments participating in the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences (www.jointdegree.umn.edu) that seek funding for research, projects, or colloquia in Summer 2010 and/or academic year 2010-11. This funding initiative seeks to encourage work on the societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences. Proposals are sought in all areas of research within the Consortium and Joint Degree Program. Interdisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged. Funds may be used to initiate new projects, mount programming, support research personnel (such as graduate students, professional students, or postdoctoral fellows), release faculty time for research, or otherwise enlarge the work of a Consortium member or Joint Degree Program department or program on the societal implications of the life sciences. Funds are not designed to provide ongoing support.

The Consortium plans to award a total of up to \$75,000. These funds will be distributed through a competitive peer-reviewed process. Applicants may seek up to \$37,000 per project. We are accepting applications for projects that extend beyond one year; if the applicant is able to demonstrate sufficient progress during year one, they will be invited to apply for continued funding next year. We expect to fund 1-2 projects for 2010-11. Past award recipients may be found at www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/.

These grants are made possible by funds received through the Presidential Interdisciplinary Initiative Process. In October 2003, President Robert Bruininks named the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences one of 8 Presidential Interdisciplinary Initiatives.

Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants must be the current director of a program or center represented in the Consortium or the head or DGS of a department or graduate or professional program represented in the Joint Degree Program. Only one application from each department or graduate or professional program will be accepted.

Evaluation Criteria:

The primary criteria for funding will be innovation, the quality of the project, and the potential impact in furthering work on the societal implications of the life sciences.

Application Process:

Proposals must be submitted electronically to Audrey Boyle, Project Manager of the Consortium, no later than 4:00pm on Monday, February 8, 2010. E-mail proposals to boyle032@umn.edu. Proposals submitted after the deadline will be considered on a rolling basis, as funds permit; however, it is unlikely any funds will remain after the first round of awards are announced. Initial funding decisions for those applications submitted by February 8 will be announced by March 8, 2010.

Proposal Guidelines:

1. Total proposal length must be less than 2000 words excluding budget, biographies, and references/citations.
2. Use the Consortium cover sheet at www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/ and provide complete information including:
 - project title;
 - sponsoring department(s), program(s), or center(s) and connection to the Consortium or Joint Degree Program;
 - amount of funding requested with a clear explanation of how these funds will help the department(s), program(s), or center(s) further their work on the societal implications of the life sciences and whether there is funding available for the project within the department/program/center; and
 - documentation of approvals necessary to conduct the project proposed or expected application date for required approvals (such as Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, conflict of interest, and environmental permits).
3. Use the Consortium budget form at www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/ and provide complete information. Include the amount and source of established funding and matching funds, if any, as well as other funding pending or sought for this project.
4. Include a statement describing the project's nature and importance.
5. Include an explanation of how this research represents an innovative contribution to interdisciplinary work on health, environment, or the life sciences.
6. Include a work plan with a specific timeline.
7. Include a brief (1-2 paragraphs) biography for each investigator or project leader.
8. Applications should append a letter or e-mail of approval from the administrator with fiscal responsibility for the department, program, or center.

Review Process:

The review panel will include the Chair of the Consortium and members of the Consortium/Joint Degree Program Executive Committee. Recommendations of the review panel will be submitted to the full Consortium and Joint Degree Program Governing Committee membership for final approval. Review panel members will recuse themselves from decision making as appropriate.

Award Conditions:

Funds will be released only after documentation of all necessary approvals is received by Audrey Boyle. Awardees will be required to provide a final written report to Audrey Boyle and an accounting of all funds expended at the completion of the project (July 31, 2011 is the latest acceptable date). Funds must be expended by June 30, 2011.

Awardees may be asked to present their final report at a Consortium-sponsored event. Reports or related articles may be considered for publication as appropriate in the *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology* (www.mjlst.umn.edu). The projects will be featured on the Consortium website including the final report. Each awardee will also be expected to acknowledge the Consortium's support in all written material including publications, conference materials, and syllabi.

Please call Audrey Boyle at 612-626-5624 with any questions.

Susan M. Wolf, J.D.

McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine & Public Policy

Faegre & Benson Professor of Law

Professor of Medicine

Chair, Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences

Director, Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences

University of Minnesota

N140 Mondale Hall

229 19th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Tel. 612-625-3406

FAX 612-624-9143