

November 2, 2009

TO: Graduate and Professional Students

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

RE: Consortium Grants on the Societal Implications of the Life Sciences-- Request for Proposals (RFP) from **Graduate/Professional Students** to Provide Support for Summer 2010 and/or Academic Year 2010-11

Cc: Faculty Members, Deans, Directors, Dept. Heads/Chairs

**DEADLINE: Monday, February 8, 2010 or until funds are depleted**

SUBMIT TO: [boyle032@umn.edu](mailto:boyle032@umn.edu)

The University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences ([www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu](http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu)) invites applications from graduate and professional students including students in the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences ([www.jointdegree.umn.edu](http://www.jointdegree.umn.edu)) to provide a stipend for research and writing in Summer 2010 and/or academic year 2010-11. This funding initiative aims to encourage work on the broad societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences. Proposals are sought from all graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota on all campuses. Interdisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged.

The Consortium plans to award a total of up to \$75,000. Applicants may seek up to \$5,000 in non-recurring salary funds that may be used to support research in Minnesota or elsewhere, fund independent study projects, or otherwise enlarge the student's work on the societal implications of the life sciences. In addition, applicants may seek up to \$5,000 for research-related reimbursable expenses such as travel and purchase of research materials and supplies. Only equipment and supply purchases that are directly required for the project are appropriate. Proposals for student-initiated programs or colloquia will also be accepted, for a maximum of \$10,000. Several examples of successful past applications are posted with permission at [www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/](http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/).

**Eligibility Criteria:**

1. Proposals must address the broad societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences.
2. Applicants must be current University of Minnesota students in good standing who are enrolled in post-baccalaureate programs and working towards a doctoral, master's, or professional degree.

**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. One award will be designated for a Joint Degree Program applicant; in the event

that an appropriate application is not submitted, these funds will be returned to the general pool.

**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](mailto: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, 2010 will be announced by March 8, 2010.

**Proposal Guidelines:**

1. Total proposal length must be less than 1,000 words excluding budget, biographies, and references/citations.
2. Use the Consortium cover sheet at <http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/> and provide complete information including:
  - project title;
  - faculty advisor name and email (or “not applicable” if you are a professional student without an advisor);
  - amount of funding requested with a clear statement of what the funds will be used for; and
  - documentation of approvals necessary to conduct the proposed project or application date for required approvals (such as Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, approval for research on animals (IACUC), review regarding conflicts of interest, and environmental permits).
3. Use the Consortium budget form at <http://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 using months or quarters to identify work to be done and completion dates.
7. Include a brief (1-2 paragraphs) biography of the applicant and all co-investigators on the project.
8. Use references/citations sparingly.
9. Applications should not include letters of support.

**Review Process:**

The review panel will include, at a minimum, the Chair of the Consortium, and two members of the Consortium and/or the JDP Governing Committee. Recommendations of the review panel will be submitted to the full Consortium membership for final approval. Review panel members will recuse themselves from decision making as appropriate.

**Award Conditions:**

Funds are released only after documentation of all necessary approvals is received by Audrey Boyle. Awardees will be required to provide a final written report 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*. The projects will be featured on the Consortium website including the proposal, budget, and 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 612-626-5624 with any questions.

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