

Announcement: 2014 CNS Seed Grants Program

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS) at UCSB announces a 2nd round of its *intramural seed grant program for UCSB faculty*: **CNS Seed Grants on Societal Issues for New Technologies**. CNS is a National Science Foundation national center dedicated to understanding the relationships between new technological innovation and social change and to advancing an integrative role for the social sciences and humanities in promoting the development of equitable and sustainable technological innovation around the world through research and engagement. The purpose of the 2014 CNS Seed Grant Program is to generate new research projects that will further the mission of the CNS and increase involvement of additional UCSB faculty as funded researchers in the Center. The 2014 seed grants will be made for a 12-month project period (beginning between Apr 1 and July 1 2014) with anticipated **award size ranging from \$20,000 to a maximum of \$60,000 in direct costs**, and should have the potential to lead to extramural funding. ***Deadline for submission in this year's cycle is Tuesday Feb 18, 2014.***

Eligibility: UCSB ladder faculty with relevant expertise and interest. Current CNS research groups focus on responsible global innovation systems, contemporary histories of new technologies, expert and public risk perception, and public deliberation and participation. A focus on *nanotechnology* is not required, but the project must address contemporary issues of new technologies, science/society interactions, and/or responsible technological innovation and development. Additional technologies of interest include synthetic biology, neurotechnologies, information technologies, new materials, and the ethical, legal, social and economic impacts of their development. Projects that propose new or enhance existing collaborations with CNS researchers are welcome; standalone projects that advance the mission of the CNS are also welcome.

Targeted areas of interest: Examples of areas of particular interest in the 2014 program, all in relation to technological innovation and development:

- *Globalization, technological innovation and economic development*
- *Social movements/collective action in response to technological development*
- *Social, economic, and environmental inequality as related to technological development*
- *Deliberative democracy*
- *Environmental and health risk perception*
- *Historical perspectives on contemporary emerging technologies*
- *Studies sited in Latin America, E. or S. Asia; or comparative cross-national studies.*

Budget

The maximum budget request is \$60,000 (not including overhead/indirect). Allowable expenses include: faculty summer salary up to a maximum of \$10,000 or 1 summer month, postdoctoral or graduate student researcher salaries and benefits; research travel; data collection or analysis; and other necessary research expenses. CNS will administer the

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funds. In order to ensure timely achievement of the program goals, all awards must be fully expended within 12 months of their start date. Extensions beyond the 12-month award period **will not be permitted**.

Evaluation and review

All proposals will be independently evaluated by a CNS seed grant faculty review committee according to the following criteria. Applicants will be notified of their outcome by no later than March 15, 2014. Projects proposed in this round must have a start date no later than July 1, 2014. NB: Human subjects approval is required for any proposed activities involving human subjects and must be in place before any project funds may be expended.

Criteria for selection:

- consistency with the mission of the CNS-UCSB
- potential for extending CNS **research** in a fruitful direction that can link well with work within a given CNS Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG)
- feasibility to complete the proposed work within 12 months of its start date
- plans for specific desired outcomes of publications or extramural funding
- suitability of the faculty proposer(s) to the seed project, and potential for contributing to the CNS as an interdisciplinary societal implications researcher
- potential to contribute to the diversity and broader impacts of the CNS

Proposal contents and submission

In order to be eligible for review, a complete proposal package must include the following:

1. **project abstract** (200 words maximum)
2. **proposal narrative**, including: a statement of the problem, statement of significance, scholarly background to the problem, methods and procedures, and plan of work, including all proposed personnel (3 pp. single spaced maximum)
3. **budget estimate** (Providing estimated dollar amounts and a brief narrative rationale for each expense). ***If your project is selected for funding, CNS staff will assist you in developing a detailed project budget.***
4. **abbreviated c.v.** (3 pp. maximum)

All pages should be formatted with 1-inch margins, using 12 pt. font.

Submit all required documents as one .PDF file attachment by email to CNS Assistant Director, Bonnie Molitor: bonnie_molitor@cns.ucsb.edu **by 5 pm Tuesday Feb 18, 2014.**

For more information, please feel free to contact any of the following:

- Prof. Barbara Herr Harthorn, PI, Director and leader, risk perception and public deliberation group, barbara.harthorn@ucsb.edu or x3350
- Prof. Rich Appelbaum, Co-PI and leader, nano & globalization group, richappelbaum@ucsb.edu
- Prof. Patrick McCray, Co-PI and leader, historical contexts group, Patrick McCray pmccray@history.ucsb.edu
- Bonnie Molitor, CNS Assistant Director, for technical and budgetary questions, bonnie.molitor@ucsb.edu or x5929.