

The Ohio Board of Regents

Ohio Eminent Scholars Program:

Wright Centers of Innovation in the Biosciences

FY 2005 Request for Proposals

January 29, 2004

The Ohio Board of Regents announces the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program as a competition for a single endowed Eminent Scholar faculty position in the biosciences within an existing Wright Center of Innovation. The May 5, 2003 request for proposals described the linkage of the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program with the Third Frontier Project administered by the Ohio Department of Development (www.thirdfrontier.com). Consistent with the original announcement of a plan to fund one Eminent Scholar award within a new Wright Center of Innovation in a non-bioscience discipline and another one within a new Wright Center of Innovation in a bioscience-related discipline, the present announcement is a request for proposals to fund the biosciences Eminent Scholar endowed chair within one of the three existing bioscience Wright Centers.

The present program announcement embraces the traditional foundation of the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program to enhance the national eminence of selected outstanding academic programs at Ohio universities. The focus of the program is on already outstanding academic endeavors that, through the leadership of an Ohio Eminent Scholar, will gain increased national visibility while providing direct support for the research and commercialization focus of a Wright Center of Innovation. Accordingly, the new Ohio Eminent Scholar will be expected to make important, direct contributions to strengthening Ohio's high-technology capabilities for research and innovation in the biosciences.

Characteristics of an Ohio Eminent Scholar. An Ohio Eminent Scholar is an individual acknowledged as a scholar of distinction by national measures. As such, she or he should have a continuously distinguished record of research and scholarly achievement. The expectation is that the most substantial contributions to the discipline lie ahead in the future work of the Ohio Eminent Scholar. Moreover, an Ohio Eminent Scholar not only generates and disseminates knowledge but has, and continues to be, engaged in the education and training of other scholars. Ohio Eminent Scholars must be new hires to Ohio universities or colleges and may not be currently employed within the State of Ohio.

FY 2005 Funding. The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program was created by the Ohio General Assembly and is administered by the Ohio Board of Regents. The program will receive State of Ohio funding in the amount of \$1,462,500 during Fiscal Year 2005. This level of funding will provide endowment awards of \$731,250 for each of two chairs which will be matched by an equal amount of private endowment funds to be secured by each institution receiving an award. The non-bioscience Eminent Scholar chair was awarded on November 13, 2003 to Wright State University in conjunction with their successful application to the Ohio Department of Development for a new Wright Center of Innovation in Advanced Data Management and Analysis. The present announcement seeks applications from one or more of the three eligible Ohio universities with bioscience Wright Centers of Innovation for the bioscience Eminent Scholar position.

To qualify for State of Ohio funding under this program the proposing institution must raise the required matching funds using either currently available endowment funds or newly sought development funds. Institutional operating funds may not be reassigned for this purpose. Matching institutional funds totaling at least \$731,250 for the bioscience Eminent Scholar position must be designated for the purpose of the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program at that specific institution.

Possible Eminent Scholar Capital Grant. It is anticipated that the State of Ohio will also provide additional capital support in the amount of \$500,000 for instrumentation and/or facilities for the Ohio Eminent Scholar as a part of the new FY 2005-06 State capital budget. If this additional capital support ultimately is made available, matching institutional funds must be provided to increase the award by fifty percent.

Institutional Eligibility. The only institutions eligible to apply for funding under the present FY 2005 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program announcement include:

- University of Cincinnati in conjunction with their Wright Center of Innovation in Computational Medicine.
- Ohio State University in conjunction with their Wright Center of Innovation in Biomedical, Structural, Functional and Molecular Imaging.
- Case Western Reserve University in conjunction with their Wright Center of Innovation in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine.

Program Eligibility. An Ohio Eminent Scholar has responsibility for creating new knowledge at the cutting edge of her or his discipline. This would include direct contributions carried out through his or her own professional efforts as well as indirect contributions accomplished through the education, training, and scholarly output of students who will themselves mature into independent scholars. Programs eligible for Ohio Eminent Scholars Program funding during the current round, therefore, are bioscience graduate programs, most typically bioscience doctoral programs, which possess a clearly demonstrated record of success in both the direct and indirect aspects of scholarly productivity.

Programs designed to develop Ohio's high-technology research and commercialization capabilities in the biosciences within any one of the three eligible universities and in conjunction with that institution's existing bioscience Wright Center of Innovation are eligible to receive Ohio Eminent Scholars Program funding as a result of this request for proposals. It should be noted, however, that only one such Eminent Scholars proposal may be submitted by each of the three eligible institutions.

Program Criteria. A program proposing an Ohio Eminent Scholar should demonstrate current high academic quality and future potential for further eminence with clear presence of prestigious faculty as a key factor, as described further in the basic guidelines given below under Review Criteria. The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program advances the unique requirement that program proposals bring educational resources to bear on compelling statewide problems associated with the Third Frontier Project (www.thirdfrontier.com). Where programs could have statewide influence, plans should be developed to share such expertise. In furtherance of this objective, consortial arrangements involving more than one university will be viewed positively, where appropriate. Ohio's universities have built an impressively strong record of collaboration across many issues including research and graduate programming. It is anticipated that new Ohio Eminent Scholars will fit in with this tradition of interinstitutional collaboration. Such collaboration can be observed within many different formats and arenas and, therefore, the involvement of the new Ohio Eminent Scholar in the various forms of interinstitutional collaboration is considered a highly desirable outcome.

Review Criteria. The following five basic guidelines will be used to judge a program's potential for excellence and qualification for an Ohio Eminent Scholars Program award:

1. The presence of distinguished bioscience faculty members, including those with a substantial history of external funding

along with the strong potential for attracting a scholar-leader of national eminence in the biosciences.

2. The presence of academically outstanding bioscience graduate students along with the promise and potential for attracting additional highly-qualified bioscience students.
3. The presence of research and scholarly support services which are fully adequate.
4. The existence of an academic environment with appropriate infrastructure, including buildings, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and specialized equipment, that is conducive to the conduct of the highest quality of scholarship and research in the biosciences.
5. The demonstration of a direct, working relationship with an existing Wright Center of Innovation (www.thirdfrontier.com) with research emphasis in the biosciences.

The proposing institution should provide an analysis of how well it can meet the above five basic criteria or what steps would have to be taken in order to do so and at what cost. While it is not necessary to identify specific senior scholars who might be potential bioscience Eminent Scholar candidates, it is important to document a high level of research excellence and productivity within the academic unit. Finally, the proposing institution must submit its plans to raise, or reassign, endowment funds at the minimum of \$731,250 for an Ohio Eminent Scholar, which is necessary in order to qualify for state matching funds. In this manner the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program provides an opportunity for strengthening the essential relationship between higher education and the private sector for addressing cooperatively some of the state's most critical needs and for stimulating a new thrust toward a higher level of academic excellence.

Review Process. Proposals submitted for funding under the FY 2005 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program will be subjected to a rigorous peer review by a panel of nationally known experts in the biosciences who live and work outside of the State of Ohio. The panel to be convened by the National Research Council will be comprised of professional individuals with extensive experience in the review of nationally competitive funding applications. The process will be similar to the one recently organized and carried out by the National Academies for the review of proposals for Wright Centers of Innovation in the biosciences.

Phase I: Letters of Intent. After carefully considering the goals of this program, the mission of the institution, and the appropriateness of the proposed academic program to meet the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program criteria outlined above, institutions desiring to apply for a biosciences Eminent Scholar must submit a letter of intent to the Ohio Board of Regents on or before 4:00 pm EST on **February 16, 2004**. This letter may be transmitted electronically and should indicate the specific bioscience area of focus for the proposed new Ohio Eminent Scholar in order to permit the identification of appropriate external reviewers.

Phase II: Proposals. Proposals must be submitted electronically in WORD or PDF format to the Ohio Board of Regents and must be received on or before 4:00 pm EST on **April 12, 2004**. The total size of the electronic submission, including both the proposal narrative and the *curriculum vitae* for each principal investigator, may not exceed one megabyte. The narrative project description within the proposal is limited to twenty pages, double-spaced with a font no smaller than ten pitch. The project description should contain the following elements:

1. A complete and thorough description of the proposed Ohio Eminent Scholars position, and a complete description of the academic program, including the quality and strength of current faculty which highlights the exceptional quality of the program that will attract an Eminent Scholar. The description should include national or objective means of quality assessment in addition to internal institutional evaluation.
2. Information regarding the desired scholar's qualifications, leadership, and ability to attract a critical mass of scholars, as well as the plan for recruitment of the desired scholar. Potential Eminent Scholars include individuals who are widely recognized as top leaders in their disciplines as well as younger independent investigators who show outstanding promise for achieving such recognition. It should be noted that it is not necessary to identify specific individuals who might be potential bioscience Eminent Scholar candidates.
3. Institutional commitment and plans for raising funds for the program, as well as other special resources, including budget requests and budget justification for capital funds for equipment and/or facilities up to the maximum of \$500,000 plus the required fifty percent institutional capital match.
4. A clear and concise statement describing how the Ohio Eminent Scholar will address critical statewide needs for technology commercialization in the biosciences.

5. Plans for sharing the program's benefits with other universities and colleges in Ohio as well as consortial arrangements in place or planned, as appropriate.
6. An outcomes assessment plan linked to the proposed objectives.
7. Brief *vitae* of key faculty who comprise the program proposed to attract an Ohio Eminent Scholar in a bioscience discipline must be included. The format of the *vitae* should reflect the most relevant and appropriate work and activities, presented in a format consistent with *vitae* in a given bioscience discipline, and not exceeding two pages in length for each faculty member

Each of the three eligible institutions will be allowed to submit only one proposal for funding under the FY 2005 Eminent Scholars Program.

Bioscience programs with an Ohio Eminent Scholars award secured in a previous round of funding are eligible to compete in this round; however, clear and convincing evidence must be presented that the level of excellence within that program has been significantly enhanced as a direct result of the previous Ohio Eminent Scholars award(s). This evidence must include a discussion of the role and effectiveness of the initial Ohio Eminent Scholars award(s) and the relationship to the new proposal.

Phase III. Evaluation Process. After proposals have been screened administratively for completeness and general appropriateness for the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program, they will be reviewed by a panel of bioscience experts convened by the National Research Council. Within this review process proposals will be subjected to a rigorous external peer review by experts in the biosciences who live and work outside of the State of Ohio. Prior to making their final recommendation to the Ohio Board of Regents for the bioscience Ohio Eminent Scholar award, the panel convened by the National Research Council may decide that a meeting of representatives of the proposing institutions is needed. If the review panel desires to meet with program representatives, project leaders will be asked to travel to Columbus, Ohio on or about **May 13, 2004** in order to meet with representatives of the review panel and make formal presentations describing their project plans. The process described above is similar to the one organized by the National Academies for the review of proposals for Wright Centers of Innovation in the biosciences.

Phase IV: Program Awards. Using the recommendations resulting from the peer review process organized and carried out by the National Academies, the Ohio Board of Regents will make the final determination of the program to be awarded funding for a bioscience Eminent Scholar position under the FY 2005 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program. It is

anticipated that the award announcement will be made at the meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents scheduled for **June 17, 2004**.

Funds Management. The ultimate decision on establishing and coordinating an Ohio Eminent Scholars Program will reside with the Ohio Board of Regents, which will serve as the agency responsible for verification that all conditions, both academic and fiscal, are being met on a biennial basis. Endowments will be established with appropriate monitoring systems according to the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act, beginning with section 1715.51 of the Ohio Revised Code as well as Chapter 4:1, *Administration of Endowment and Similar Funds in College and University Business Administration*. State matching funds will be distributed to that institution which has been selected for funding under the FY 2005 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program only after the institutionally raised minimum of \$731,250 has been actually received and dedicated for use in the institution's Ohio Eminent Scholars fund account. Once these Ohio Eminent Scholars award moneys have been transferred, they become a permanent part of the institution's endowment for the support of the new Ohio Eminent Scholar. Progress reports covering both program and fund information will be required annually.

Timely Appointment of New Ohio Eminent Scholars. The university designated by the Ohio Board of Regents to receive the FY 2005 Ohio Eminent Scholars award in the biosciences, as well as the university previously designated to receive the non-biosciences Ohio Eminent Scholars award in FY 2005, is expected to hire the new senior scholar by July 1, 2007; otherwise, both the endowment and capital grant moneys, including earned interest but excluding local matches, must be returned to the Ohio Board of Regents for the support of future Ohio Eminent Scholars Program awards.

Program Evaluation. Each newly funded Ohio Eminent Scholars Program institution will be required to implement a continuous assessment plan that evaluates the Ohio Eminent Scholars program at its campus. The Ohio Board of Regents may request, as deemed necessary, a progress report from each funded program at any time and, within five years of the appointment of the Ohio Eminent Scholar, will request a major evaluation report addressing the demonstrated achievements of the objectives originally proposed by the program.

In addition to other items deemed appropriate by the reporting institution, the Ohio Eminent Scholars progress report should include the following elements:

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1. Documentation that the proposed objectives are being met along with a description of the continuous assessment processes used to verify the stated outcomes.
2. Demonstration of the significant achievements of the program in terms of scientific and technological achievements.
3. Documentation of the education and training of student scholars.
4. Demonstration that critical State of Ohio needs related to economic growth are being addressed.
5. Documentation of how and the manner in which the expertise developed within the program is being, or will be, shared with other institutions in Ohio through scholarly interactions, research collaborations, consortial agreements, etc.

Program Coordination. The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program will be coordinated by Dr. Harry Andrist, Director of Research and Graduate Programs, Ohio Board of Regents, who may be contacted at 614-752-9539 or handrist@regents.state.oh.us. All letters of intent and program proposals submitted in response to this request for proposals to the FY 2005 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program should be forwarded electronically to Dr. Andrist using the email address given above.