REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Occupancy of Newly Renovated Space in the J. Bennett Johnston Building by Interdisciplinary Research Clusters
Deadline: March 1, 2013

I. The JBJ renovation project

A major renovation project, supported by the National Institutes of Health, is underway to remodel three floors of biomedical research laboratory space in the J. Bennett Johnston Building (JBJ) on the downtown campus. The renovation will create open collaborative spaces to foster interdisciplinary interaction and research. The project objective is to support integrative research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries, bringing to bear the capacity of investigators from diverse fields across the university to approach complex biomedical and public health issues.

The renovation will provide open laboratories that promote collaborative interactions between investigators, as well as support areas for each suite that include equipment rooms, tissue culture rooms, and meeting areas. A modular system of utilities and casework will be used to maximize flexibility in reconfiguration of the open laboratory space. All spaces in the renovated areas will have ample natural light and views to the outside. The currently opaque front walls of private faculty offices will be replaced with translucent glass partitions, further increasing penetration of natural light within the space. The project will also upgrade the façade of the building to improve ambient lighting in the laboratory areas and improve the overall comfort in the work environment.

The space design is intended to accommodate one interdisciplinary research cluster of 5 – 7 Principal Investigators, their staff and trainees within a unit representing one-half of each floor (Figure 1, attached). Each renovated one-half floor will contain:

- ~7,500 square feet of space
- 48 (72-inch) lab benches
- 28 desk spaces, with associated shelving, file cabinets and marker boards
- 7 – 8 private offices
- Support lab areas for tissue culture, temperature-controlled rooms, fume hoods, and/or equipment rooms

Included in the renovation project is a major upgrade to the data network on the renovated floors and throughout the building to the following specifications:

- 10 Gbps backbone
- 1 Gbps to each desktop
- 802.11n wireless throughout
- Redundant 10 Gbps connections to the University Data Center
- 10 Gbps connection to Internet 2
- 10 Gbps connection to the internet via LONI

II. Qualities of the occupant research clusters and anticipated return on investment

The co-location of interdisciplinary research clusters is intended to support synergy that builds on core research strengths at Tulane while maximizing opportunities for interdisciplinary and translational research. The investment in a research cluster is intended to bolster collaborations among research-intensive units university-wide.

The areas of research should include those with potential to seize opportunities resulting from emerging and fast-growing funding streams. The occupant groups should include highly productive Principal Investigators with a strong track record and faculty with promise of achievement to this level. Interdisciplinary research clusters are expected to demonstrate creativity and vision that would be served optimally by the new configuration of co-localized research. To foster growth of their vision, research
clusters may request an award of university funds up to $150,000 to expend on necessary equipment, materials or technical personnel (in addition to relocation costs).

Expectations of research accomplishment from the occupant research clusters include:
- new competitive research support, based on collaborative interactions.
- peer-reviewed publications demonstrating the interdisciplinary research.
- new opportunities for training of students and postdoctoral fellows.

The JBJ represents university space not assigned to a Tulane school or unit, but managed under the leadership of the Health Sciences Leadership Council (HSLC)*. Decisions about space allocations will be made by the Provost’s Office after consultation. The HSLC will be the deliberative body to inform the Provost’s decisions.

The commitment of space in the JBJ to an interdisciplinary cluster is not assumed to be temporary, but the identified groups will be expected to demonstrate the ongoing value of the space assignment. Commitment of space allocation to the identified research clusters will be made in writing from the Provost.

III. Guidelines for response to the Request for Proposals
In a proposal of 3 - 5 pages in length overall, the applicant team should address the following:
- Discuss how co-location in the renovated space would bring together productive faculty to generate new opportunities and approaches.
- Discuss how co-location in the renovated space would foster productivity of the group and foster activities that occur to a lesser degree otherwise.
- Understanding that the research cluster may be larger than the occupants of the JBJ space, how does the co-located cluster interact together with others across the university?
- Describe the growth and opportunity in your research area. Identify potential federal agency interest and/or funding opportunities; describe anticipated return on investment.
- Describe resources that the group might need to achieve success and accomplish its goals. How might an award of university funds up to $150,000 be used to support development of the group’s program? Considerations might include technology or equipment needed to advance a collaborative project and/or direct costs of a new project, excluding faculty salary.
- Describe the structure of the team, including junior and senior faculty. Identify key members of the research cluster, and attach CV’s (NIH- or NSF-style) of 5 likely members.

Proposals should be submitted electronically to Laura S. Levy, Vice President for Research, (llevy@tulane.edu) by March 1, 2013 for an anticipated move date of September 2013.

*Health Sciences Leadership Council (HSLC):
Laura S. Levy (Chair)
Michael Bernstein
Benjamin Sachs
Nicholas Altiero
Pierre Buekens
Andrew Lackner
OPEN LABS, SUPPORT LABS, & WRITE-UP

Typical Half a Floor:

Total: +/- 7,500 sf
at 200 sf/researcher, total +/- 37 researchers
- 7-8 in offices
- 28-32 in open lab
- At 5 staff / P.I. = 1600 SF/P.I., → 5 P.I.’s per floor

Ballroom areas:
- Bench-top analytical equipment
- Convenience fume hoods

Ballroom lab area ≈ Support lab area
- Support lab areas:
- Tissue culture / Warm rooms
- Dedicated fume hoods
- Freezer farms / Cold rooms

SCOPE OF WORK UNDER NIH GRANT

ASSOCIATED SUPPORT LABS (not in grant)
The open laboratory area will contain:

- 28 desk spaces
- 48 (72”) lab benches
  - 28 individual
  - 20 for shared equipment
- 2 Fume hoods (fixed)
- 4 sinks (fixed)

The write-up/study areas will include:

- Marker-board
- Tall shelves by table
- Low shelves below windows
- Low storage at aisle