KEY DATES:
Internal RFI Release: September 30, 2014
Internal LOI Deadline: October 27, 2014

PURPOSE:
The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and ACTSI at Marshall University is requesting Letters of Interest from junior investigators to participate in a large programmatic funding request to the NIH (COBRE). Each investigator will be asked to submit a project with the breadth and depth similar to an R01 application as part of a larger institutional application. The goal of this grant will be to build a nationally competitive biomedical/translational research program which preferably would address health disparities prevalent in the region. Up to 5 successful applicants will be chosen to be part of the COBRE application.

ELIGIBILITY:
Proposals must meet these criteria:
• Assistant Professors (preferred) or Associate Professor early in the tenure.
• Has not had NIH RO1, PPG, level funding to date.
• The overall theme of the COBRE will address health disparities in Appalachia (i.e. obesity, diabetes, etc.).
• The project must be biomedical with translational and/or clinical components as appropriate.
• While not necessary, investigators are encouraged to identify a mentor who currently has or has had a track record of significant NIH (RO1) or programmatic funding (PPG, INBRE, CTR, etc.) - If the investigator is selected to participate, a mentor will be assigned, if none is identified.

REVIEW CRITERIA:
• Outstanding scientific merit
• Clear translational/clinical relevance
• Focus on Appalachian health disparities
• Applications will also be selected by fit for the overall COBRE application
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
1. The following materials must be **submitted via e-mail** to robinsonn1@marshall.edu no later than 5PM on deadline date.

2. **Research Proposal**
   a. Date of application
   b. Name, Department, Position, and Email Address of the PI
   c. Title of Project
   d. Specific Aims – 1 Page
   e. Significance, Innovation, Impact, Preliminary studies, Research Design, all not to exceed 2 pages.

   *(Required materials below are not included in 3 page limit)*
   f. Biosketch in NIH format
   g. If identified, Biosketch of Mentor
   h. Bibliography cited
   i. Appendix of manuscripts submitted/accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals
   h. Unless necessary for preliminary studies presented, regulatory approval (IRB etc.) will not be needed at this time

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES:
- If selected, the investigator will be expected to work with colleagues, mentors and COBRE PI to develop his/her project by December 15, 2014 for the institutional COBRE application that is due January 28, 2015.

ACTSI INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES:
- Investigators are encouraged to utilize ACTSI resources including biostatistics/study design consultation, regulatory document preparation and faculty development mentoring.
- For ACTSI support services please contact Dr. Todd Davies. 304-691-1836
- The proposals should be submitted as Microsoft Word document to the Vice Dean’s office, attention: Anna Thomas at robinsonn1@marshall.edu; 304 691 1836

FURTHER INFORMATION:
Please direct all questions to: Dr. Davies or Ms. Thomas at 304-691-1836.