

**Date:** April 18, 2011

**To:** All SVM and Diagnostic Laboratory Faculty (Instructor and above)

**From:** SVM Research Committee: Shisheng Li (CBS), Masami Yoshimura (CBS), S. Jeyaseelan (PBS; Chair), Fang-Ting Liang (PBS), Laura Riggs (VCS), Gary Sod (CVS) and James Miller, *ex officio*.

**Subject:** Request for proposals, USDA Animal Health and Disease Research Program (Section 1433)

This is the request for proposals for the SVM's USDA Animal Health and Disease Research Program (Section 1433) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Approximately \$15,000 will be available for award on a competitive basis. Proposals up to \$7,500/year will be considered, and funds will become available on or about October 1, 2011. Depending on the quality of the proposals submitted, all or part of the \$15,000 will be awarded. Because of the dramatic reduction in funding which began last year it is anticipated that only 1 to 2 proposals will be funded depending on the budget requested. Requested funding must be for a clearly defined study that can be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Proposals must meet the USDA criteria (attached). In general, proposals related to food animal and equine health and disease are eligible. Nutrition and reproductive physiology projects are **not** eligible for Section 1433 support. Proposals must be submitted by **June 13** and will be ranked by **July 8**. The funds will become available on or about October 1, 2011 and must be spent by September 30, 2012.

It is the intent of the SVM Research Committee to enhance research activity and productivity within the School. One of the most effective ways to achieve this goal is to use the limited intramural research funding currently available to help acquire more extramural research dollars and expand scholarly activity. Proposals in any discipline that conform to the Section 1433 program criteria (attached) will be given consideration, The Committee is especially interested in proposals that (i) are needed to acquire preliminary or pilot data (i.e., seed money proposals) for submission of extramural grant(s); (ii) involve a novel/different scientific area or approach for the investigator(s), with potential for extramural funding or, (iii) provide bridging funds between extramural grants. In the case of bridging funds, the grant support (which the bridging is to partially replace) must have been extramural funding that was lost during the previous 12 months. In the case of the later an introductory statement should be included together with the summary of the most recent critique and agency score explaining the need for the bridge. Although the Committee prefers these funds be used as seed monies that will provide data to improve the competitiveness of the investigator(s) for extramural funds, proposals that address a specific clinical problem (especially if there are no or minimal other opportunities to acquire extramural funding) will be given consideration.

The proposal must be a clearly defined project that addresses specific questions with definable scientific output and that can be completed within the one-year funding period. Proposals that are part of an ongoing study, or address a separate aspect or spin-off of a larger study, will be considered as long as the projects are clearly defined and their interrelationship to and distinction from the larger project are clearly defined. Interdisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged.

Investigators interested in pursuing multiple year funding can submit a continuation grant the following year. However, the funding will be on a competitive and as-available basis and justification for a second year of Section 1433 funding for a project must be compelling.

The principal investigator (P.I.) must be a member of the SVM/Diagnostic Laboratory Faculty (Instructor level or above) and only one proposal per P.I. can be submitted. Priority will be given to new non-tenured faculty in the School of Veterinary Medicine/ Diagnostic Laboratory. A Research Committee member wishing to submit a grant either as a PI or Co-PI must inform the chairman of the SVM Research Committee prior to submission and a suitable departmental replacement will be found to participate in the entire grant review process.

An original with 7 copies of the proposal must be submitted to the Dean's office by 4:30 PM, Monday, June 13, 2011. Proposals that do not follow the attached format will not be considered for funding. The criteria by which we will rank these proposals is also attached. Proposal review comments will be returned to the principal investigator. Any questions may be directed to the SVM Research Committee Chair or other members.

## Proposal Format

1. Title page
  - A. Identification: SVM CORP, USDA 1433
  - B. Title
  - C. Principal and Co-investigators
2. Body of Proposal (5 pages maximum)
  - (i) Objectives and rationale
    - A. Overall goal(s) of research
    - B. Hypothesis and specific objectives
    - C. Why work should be done
    - D. What accomplishment of objectives will demonstrate
    - E. If applicable, how project integrates with but is distinct from an ongoing or larger project
    - F. How will this project enhance competitiveness for extramural funding.
  - (ii) Experimental plan
    - A. Description of the investigation
    - B. Techniques to be employed
    - C. Analysis of results
    - D. Expected results and relevance of data
    - E. Pitfalls and limitations
    - F. Proposed timeline for completion of study, publication or presentation of material, and submission of grant to extramural funding agency
3. References (limit to those essential to understand the proposal).
4. Budget (Attached) and Justification (must clearly indicate how expenditures will be used to accomplish specific objectives, i.e. give general description of what is included in each budget category, but you don't have to itemize costs).
5. Special considerations
  - A. Progress report(s) for SVM or USDA formula fund projects funded in the last 3 years. State objectives and describe outcome in relation to the objectives. Previous AD 416 and AD 421 forms will help (1 page for each project)
  - B. New investigator--first 3 years at SVM, no previous SVM or USDA formula fund funding.
6. Supporting documents
  - (i) Required
    - A. Curriculum vitae for principal and co-investigators. Two pages (publications can be on separate page).
  - (ii) As applicable
    - A. Copy of first page or submission/acceptance letters for publications/abstracts resulting from projects under 5 A.
    - B. Copy of cover page for submitted grants
    - C. Preliminary data can be included as an appendix, but cannot exceed 2 pages

Pages are to be single-spaced and typewritten, 10 characters per inch (12 point print), with 1" margins. Submit original and 7 copies of the proposal and supporting documents. The completed SVM routing sheet must accompany application and be signed by co-investigators and proper administrative representatives. Application for animal care and use, recombinant DNA, radioactive materials use, and intellectual property rights (if applicable) must be submitted by the time of proposal submission. Approval for these may be pending.

A copy of the proposal evaluation form the committee will use to score the proposals also is attached.

## SVM Research Committee Proposal Evaluation

### Overall Merit of Proposal (50 points)

	No. of points allotted	
Impact of accomplishment of objectives-scientific &/or medical	(5 points)	
Is the proposal hypothesis driven? Or are the descriptive data to be gathered essential for further work and not currently available elsewhere.	(5 points)	
Potential for obtaining extramural funding relevant to proposal	(20 points)	
Clarity with which the proposal is written	(15 points)	
Qualification of investigator(s)	(5 points)	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		

### Technical and Experimental Quality of Proposal (50 points)

	No. of points allotted	
Appropriate design (controls, timeline, etc.) to accomplish objectives	(15 points)	
Feasibility of techniques	(10 points)	
Appropriate analysis of data	(10 points)	
Understanding potential pitfalls and limitations	(5 points)	
Appropriateness of budget	(10 points)	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		

### Special Considerations

		No. of points allotted	
1.	New Investigator in first 3 years of appointment at LSU without previous SVM funding	(10 points)	
2.	Progress report, SVM/formula funds for last 3 years		
	<b>a.</b> No progress report, unsatisfactory report, no data obtained from work in progress	(-10points)	
	<b>b.</b> Work completed with submission/publication of manuscript in refereed journal or grant application submitted utilizing the experimental data	(5 points)	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Comments (Must justify on the back of this sheet the scores assigned in each of the three above categories: Overall merit, technical and experimental quality and special considerations)

## **USDA Section 1433 Guidelines**

### Animal Health and Disease Research Defined

Animal Health Research comprises basic and applied studies on infectious and non-infectious agents that impair the normal state of the living animal body and/or affect the performance of vital functions. This includes research to improve the health of domestic livestock, poultry, aquatic animals, and other income-producing animals and to facilitate the effective prevention of diseases in both domesticated and wild animals that, if not controlled, would endanger the livestock and poultry industries.

Also included is research to minimize transportation and handling losses; monitor the suitability of animals and animal products for human use; protect public health through control of animal diseases transmissible to humans; and improve methods of controlling the birth of predators.

Studies are classified as Animal Health Research if the studies relate directly to the health of a target livestock, poultry, or aquatic animal species and include laboratory studies, research on animal care as it relates to livestock health and well-being, and investigations of metabolic and reproductive diseases, including endocrine dysfunctions such as anestrus. Application of molecular biology to animal health problems is included.

Research in nutrition, if no disease is produced or under study, is not to be included in Animal Health Research 1433 funds. Research on reproductive biology per se is not included. Research to improve performance is not included except as it relates to improved health. When these guidelines do not suffice, the test applied for inclusion as Animal Health Research is as follows: Is a lesion produced? This lesion may be morphological or biochemical in nature.

Enabling legislation for the Animal Health and Disease Research Program (Section 1433) was enacted to address health and disease problems that exist pre-slaughter or pre-collection of animal products (pre-harvest). So-called 'post-harvest' problems (post-slaughter or post-collection) of animal products are not included even though these are extremely important and closely related to pre-harvest problems.