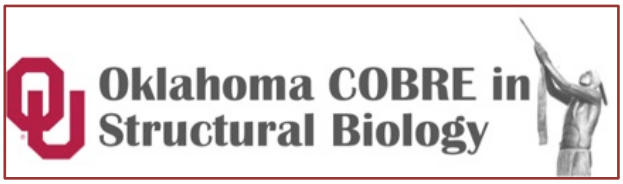

http://www.ou.edu/structuralbiology

Call for Pilot Project Proposals (Oct. 15, 2025)
Applications due January 16, 2026

The Oklahoma Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Structural Biology (OCSB) invites proposals for its Phase 3 pilot project program. The proposed project should be a strong fit to the OCSB theme of structural and/or biophysical characterization of macromolecules with the goal of understanding structure-function relationships of biomedically important macromolecules and their complexes. The objectives of the pilot project program are to:

(i) provide project support for researchers to obtain preliminary data for projects that focus on structural and/or biophysical characterization of macromolecules that will enhance competitiveness of their external grant applications
(ii) expand the user base of the OCSB-supported core facilities
(iii) support early-stage investigators
(iv) incentivize collaborative research

Projects that will use cryo-EM as well as utilize the core research facilities supported by the OCSB, i.e., Biomolecular Structure Core and Protein Purification and Characterization Core (https://www.ou.edu/structuralbiology/cobre-core-facilities) will be prioritized. Collaborations between structural biologists and non-structural biologists are strongly encouraged.

Eligibility:

- The Pilot Project Leader (PPL) must be tenure-track or tenured faculty in the State of Oklahoma.
- PPLs who are not trained in structural biology are encouraged to form collaborative teams with researchers who have expertise in structural biology.
- Concurrent full research project or pilot project support from more than one NIH IDeA award (COBRE, INBRE, OSCTR) and support of a Project Leader by a COBRE grant beyond a total of five years are not allowed per NIH guidelines.

Funding levels:
Up to 2 projects will be awarded with funding of up to $75,000/year (direct costs) for one year, plus institutional F&A costs for projects external to OU-Norman.

Important dates:

- Application due date: 5 pm CST, January 16, 2026
- Anticipated funding start date: June 1, 2026

Please direct questions about this program to Dr. Ann West (awest@ou.edu) or Dr. Fabiola Janiak-Spens (fspens@ou.edu).

Submission Information

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF formatted document to Dr. Ann West (awest@ou.edu) and cc'd to Dr. Fabiola Janiak-Spens (fspens@ou.edu). For collaborative projects, the designated PPL will assume responsibility for funds provided by the Pilot Project grant.

Review

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the project's relevance to the COBRE central theme and objectives, scientific merit, qualifications of the collaborative team, use of COBRE cores, and potential of the results to support extramural grant application(s) and peer-reviewed publications. An Internal Review Committee will then recommend proposals to the COBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) for their approval. Awards are contingent upon final approval by the NIH.

Application Content and Format

The application does not require a form. However, applications should be written using Arial 11-point font, with page margins no less than 1.0 inch on all borders and must not exceed the page limitations as indicated below.

1. *Face Page:* The title of the project, the designated PPL, co-investigators and any other collaborators (if relevant), their departmental affiliations, and contact information.

2. *Abstract* (<250 words): The abstract may be used by the OCSB for reporting purposes and may be published on the OCSB website.

3. *Research Strategy* (max 3 pages): No more than 2 specific aims are recommended, do not include detailed descriptions of standard experimental protocols, do discuss potential pitfalls and alternative experimental approaches.

   The Research Strategy Section must address (within the 3-page limit) the following:
   - How structural or biophysical characterization approaches will be utilized to address the scientific problem as well as how these approaches will continue to be an integral part of the PPL's research program beyond the award period.
   - Preliminary data is not required but can be included to demonstrate feasibility.
   - How the project will utilize the OCSB Research Cores (BSC and/or PPCC) and/or Samuel Roberts Noble Microscopy Laboratory (for cryo-EM data collection). Questions regarding suitability of core facilities to the proposed project should be discussed with the core directors. See list of core services and available equipment on our website: https://www.ou.edu/structuralbiology/cobre-core-facilities
   - External funding plan: Explain how the results from this project will enhance the effort for obtaining extramural funding for the proposed research, list funding agency of applications.

4. *Literature Citations*: No page limitation.

5. *Budget:*

- For OU-Norman applicants, the project budget should be up to $75,000/year in direct cost (DC) only. Funding is only available for 1 year.
- For non-OU-Norman applicants, the budget should be up to $75,000/year (DC plus F&A at an institutional F&A rate). Funding is only available for 1 year. For external (to OU-Norman) applicants, submissions in response to this solicitation must be reviewed and approved by the responsible official on your campus (i.e., routed through your Office of Research Administration or Sponsored Programs office).

Costs should be itemized using NIH budget Form Pages 4 and 5 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html) and a 1-page budget justification should be provided.

Funds may be used to provide salary and benefits for PPL, co-investigators, postdoctoral researchers, technicians, graduate and undergraduate students, supplies and small equipment (<$5000), travel to conferences to present research described in this project (in the U.S.) or for purposes of obtaining experimental data and contracted services (e.g., user fees for research cores).

6. *Biosketch(es) of PPL, co-investigators, collaborators*: Use latest NIH – format biosketch (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm).

7. *Current and Pending Support:* List all current sources of institutional or extramural funding and pending applications. Indicate funding agency, grant number (if applicable), project title, submission date, total project period, role in project (e.g., PI, co-PI, collaborator, consultant, etc.), amount of funding awarded or requested.

8. *Letters of Support/Collaboration, if applicable*: Letters need only indicate that the collaborator plans to participate in the project as indicated in the Research Strategy. Letters of support from Core Directors stating availability of core services and equipment should be included, if applicable.

9. *Institutional Licenses and Approval (hazardous materials, animal use, human subjects):* Not required at time of submission. However, funds will not be released until documentation of such approval is presented.

Terms of Award:

- Awardees are required to provide semi-annual progress reports (due in advance of the OCSB External Advisory Committee semi-annual site visits in January 2027 and June 2027).
- Awardees are expected to attend and participate in OCSB meetings including the OCSB monthly work-in-progress meetings, semi-annual EAC meetings, and OCSB Seminar Series during the funding period.
- Awardees **MUST** acknowledge receipt of this grant support in any publications or presentations as well as usage of OCSB-supported core facilities, if applicable. Example statement: "*Research reported in this publication was supported (in part, if applicable) by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P30GM145423*."