

WV-INBRE Faculty Research Development Awards (FRDA, Y25)

Release Date:	February 15, 2025
Letter of Intent Due:	March 11, 2025
Application Due:	May 31, 2025
Award Announcement:	~August 1, 2025

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Section I. FRDA Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose: Enhance Biomedical Research at WV-INBRE Network Institutions

The overall goal of the WV-INBRE is to continue development of a research network among predominantly undergraduate institutions, Marshall University School of Medicine (MUSOM) and the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center (WVUHSC). We are now announcing the availability of Faculty Research Development Awards (FRDAs) which are designed to support biomedical research projects to be carried out at WV-INBRE undergraduate institutions. It is expected that these grants will benefit the WV-INBRE network as a whole. **All faculty at WV-INBRE Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUI) are eligible to participate (except holders of major research projects).** Proposals must be consistent with the current research theme for WV-INBRE which is biomedical with an emphasis on chronic disease, cancer or natural product focus in humans.

Section II. Award Information

- Estimated Number of Awards in Y25: up to 6 awards
- Total Anticipated Funding Amount in Y25: \$200,000

- Limit on funding per award: \$50,000 direct costs (plus indirect costs, see Section V Allowable Costs)
- Proposals must be received no later than May 31, 2025.
- A 25% release time is required to accept the award
- Awardees will be notified in August 2025. Subawards will be made after the official Notice of Grant Award from NIGMS is received by Marshall University.
- Awarded funds must be expended during the period of the grant, after the start date of Y25, or before July 31, 2026. A no-cost extension will not be allowed.

Section III. Eligibility and Application Requirements

The following classes of investigators are eligible to apply: (1) Tenure track and tenured faculty at WV-INBRE undergraduate partner colleges and universities and (2) research track faculty (e.g. research assistant professors) at network colleges and universities. Faculty at the lead institutions (MU and WVU), postdoctoral fellows, students and recipients of WV-INBRE major research awards are not eligible to apply. If the recipient institution is not part of the research network, an MOU will have to be signed and one of their leaders (President; VP) and these individuals join the Steering Committee.

Recipients of COBRE and IDeA-CTR awards are not eligible for research funding from WV-INBRE as project investigators of major or pilot grant awards (even if the proposals are nonoverlapping). Similarly, WV-INBRE investigators may not receive simultaneous research project support from a COBRE or IDeA-CTR program. However, once their COBRE/CTR funding has been completed, these investigators can be considered in rare cases for some pilot funding if there is a strong and compelling justification and rationale. (See NIGMS INBRE Funding Opportunity Announcement (wv-inbre.net)) COBRE and IDeA-CTR investigators may serve and be supported as science advisors or collaborators in WV-INBRE programs as appropriate.

WV-INBRE Thematic Considerations: Proposals must be consistent with the current research theme for WV-INBRE which is Cellular and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on chronic disease in humans.

Limit on Number of Proposals: Individual investigators may only submit one application. There is no limit on the number of proposals a given institution may submit.

Section IV. Application Process and Submission Information

Letter of Intent: Applicants must submit a letter of intent to apply for a grant by February 15. The letter should include the title of the project and a brief paragraph describing the nature of the research to be performed. If known, the name of a mentor or potential mentor at either Marshall or WVU should be included. If the applicant has not identified a mentor, the information in this letter of intent will allow the Administrative Core to identify potential mentors based on the nature of the proposed research.

FRDA Application: Each application should be single spaced no smaller than 11 point font, using PHS 398 form which can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
Note: While the NIH is moving to mandatory electronic submission of grants, WV-INBRE will continue to use paper submission of our Faculty Research Development Grant applications. Because the NIH will review FRDA applications, the entire form 398 must be filled in. The application should contain the following information:

Institutional Endorsement: Include the NIH Face Page signed by the Principal Investigator and the institutional official authorized to make a commitment of resources needed to carry out the proposed research.

Principal Investigator: (i.e., the individual preparing the application) and key personnel, including a mentor): biographical sketch (no more than 2 pages each).

Mentor: Each project must have a research mentor from either WVU or Marshall who can advise and assist the applicant in the conduct of the research program. Dr. Werner Geldenhuys (werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu) can assist the applicant in finding a mentor.

Abstract: 250 words or less

Research Plan: Include Objectives, Specific Aims, Background, and Experimental Design (protocols if required). Page limits: 6 pages (not including references and appendices). Details of research procedures or research publications may be included in an appendix. A central hypothesis or goal should be included and the proposal should include enough detail for a reviewer to grasp what is proposed.

Network Value: Describe how this project will benefit the WV-INBRE or the principal investigator's institution (1/2 page maximum).

Budget and Justification (Up to three pages)

The budget must clearly justify requests.

Budget Guidelines:

Funds may be requested to support the following:

1. Support of student workers (fringe benefits may be requested).
2. Summer salary for the principal investigator may be requested.
3. Consumable supplies.
4. Equipment required for carrying out the proposed research (computer purchases will not be considered).
5. Services (i.e., outside laboratory fees or publication costs).
6. Indirect costs cannot be awarded unless the institution has negotiated an F&A rate with the NIH.

There are several parts of form 398 that are not applicable: Planned Enrollment Table, Cumulative Inclusion Enrollment Report, Other Support, All Personnel Report.

While institutional match is not required, all forms of institutional commitment should be defined and documented (letter from appropriate institutional official).

Human or animal research: Research involving human or animal subjects must have IRB or ACUC approval before it can be initiated. Although an approved human or animal subject protocol is not required for submission of an application, an approved protocol and NIH notification will be required before funds are released. Institutional approval may also be necessary if the work involves hazards of biological origin. Institutions that do not have these review committees must utilize existing committees at WVUHSC or MUSOM (contact Dr. Werner J. Geldenhuys for assistance).

These grants may be considered for renewal pending satisfactory progress, as demonstrated by the yearly progress report which is required for all projects at the time a renewal application is submitted. If this application is a renewal, please include a one-two page summary of progress to date as a separate section, which will not be counted as part of the total pages in the actual grant application.

Submission process: Please combine all components of your application into a single pdf and email the document to: Dr. Werner J. Geldenhuys, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences,

School of Pharmacy, 1 Medical Center Drive, West Virginia University School of Pharmacy, Morgantown, WV 26506. Email: werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu . The electronic PDF file of the application should be named: **Lastname_Firstname_FRDA_2025.pdf**.

Proposal Due Date: All proposals must be received by 5PM on May 31, 2025

Section V. Allowable Costs

Individual investigators at each WV-INBRE partner institution are eligible to apply for Faculty Research Development Awards in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$50,000 direct costs. Grants can be used to purchase supplies, pay for core facility services, and pay salaries for undergraduate research assistants and summer salaries for the principal investigator. Equipment purchases will be considered with appropriate justification and relevance to the proposal. Participation by undergraduate students is required. The funds requested will be sub-awarded to the investigator's institution and not to MUSOM or WVUHSC. Funding period of the grant is scheduled with an end date of 12 months after the start of the prime award, with the start date dependent on approval from the NIH. Funding is, of course, contingent upon renewal of the WV-INBRE program.

Indirect costs are allowed for applicants at the partner institutions and will be incorporated into the subaward agreement. For undergraduate applicants that do not currently have a subaward agreement with Marshall University in place, indirect costs will be based upon the applicant's current indirect cost rate agreement with a cognizant federal agency. For applicants who are current WV-INBRE sub-awardees, indirect cost rates must be based on the rate established at the time of the initial subaward. If the partner institute has no negotiated rate, applicants may request the NIH de minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct costs. Award of the de minimis rate is subject to the availability of funds under WV-INBRE. For applications from the lead institutions, applicants should request zero indirect costs with the understanding that the appropriate indirect costs will be allocated in the WV-INBRE budget. Inquiries regarding allowable costs should be made to Dr. Geldenhuys.

Section VI. Application Review Process

The WV-INBRE Administrative Core will evaluate these applications with the assistance of WVU and Marshall researchers knowledgeable in the area, and make awards consistent with the overall guidelines outlined in the NIH WV-INBRE award statement. The selection criteria will

be based on scientific merit and relevance of the project to the network. Requested equipment must be clearly justified as being essential for the conduct of the proposed research and not to more general departmental or institutional needs/wants. The scientific merit of the project will be evaluated first, followed by evaluation of the need for the requested equipment and supplies. Preliminary data indicating project viability will be a major factor in awarding larger requests as well as for requests for continued funding of projects previously supported by WV-INBRE.

Applications will initially be reviewed by a review panel. This panel will make recommendations for funding to the Program Director and the WV-INBRE Administrative Core (AC). The AC will then submit its recommendations to the WV-INBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) and the NIH/NIGMS for final approval. The review process will take 8-12 weeks to complete. We expect to notify all applicants in August 2024, pending renewal of the parent award. In these cases, the investigator's productivity in the form of publications and grants will be added to the review criteria.

Section VII. Award Administration Information

Faculty Research Development Awards and amounts are dependent on the receipt of the parent grant at the requested levels. We expect to announce awards in August 2024. However, the start date of FRDA subawards will be announced after the WV-INBRE prime award has been made. All funds must be expended no later than 12 months after the prime award state date. Applicants must follow institution regulations regarding purchase and receipt deadlines. Questions about the application process (eligible projects, allowable costs, etc.) should be addressed to Werner Geldenhuys. He can be contacted by phone (304-581-1683) or by email (werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu).

The Administrative Core will oversee evaluations of the proposals and notify investigators of the status of their applications in August 2025. Funding will end on July 31, 2026.

Section VIII. WV-INBRE Program Contacts

1. Gary Rankin, PhD

WV-INBRE Principal Investigator, 304-696-7313, rankin@marshall.edu

2. Stan Hileman, PhD

WV-INBRE, Program Coordinator, 304-293-7416, shileman@hsc.wvu.edu

3. Werner Geldenhuys, PhD,

FRDA Program Director, 304-581-1683, werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu

Section IX. Notification of Awards

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting Project Investigator and the applicant's organization. PIs whose proposals are declined for funding will be advised as promptly as possible. Copies of anonymous reviewer comments will be provided upon request.

Section X. Responsibilities of FRDA pilot grant recipients.

1. As with other WV-INBRE developmental awards, each FRDA recipient will be paired with a mentor to advise in experimental design, data analysis and planning of future projects. Recipients may recommend a mentor or request a recommendation from Dr. Geldenhuys. The WV-INBRE Mentoring Coordinator will advise on required interactions between the awardee and the mentor.
2. FRDA recipients are required to present the results of their research, which may be preliminary in nature, at the 2026 Summer Research Symposium. **Failure to present at this meeting will jeopardize eligibility for further WV-INBRE funding.**
3. **All recipients of WV-INBRE funding including FRDA recipients are required to provide a written report to the WV-INBRE Administrative Core to be submitted as part of the annual progress report.** As part of the progress report, recipients are expected to summarize the impact and results of their work, describe progress toward specific aims, describe the work of graduate and undergraduate students involved in the project, and list presentations, publications and grant proposals to other programs such as federal, private, or state programs.
4. Recipients of any award with a Next Gen Sequencing component are required to consult with the Genomics Core staff before any experimentation or sample preparation begins.

5. The WV-INBRE program and the Genomics and Bioinformatics Cores are evaluated based on their productivity which includes presentations, publications and grants. Recipients are strongly encouraged to present and publish their findings. **Investigators must acknowledge support from the Genomics Core Facility and WV-INBRE (NIH grant P20GM103434) in all presentations and publications.**
6. The Program Director will review and evaluate of the FRDA Program as part of the WV-INBRE internal program review and at the Steering Committee meetings.

Section XI. FRD Travel Awards

WV-INBRE announces the availability of travel awards to faculty and students at the Partner Institutions (primarily undergraduate institutions, PUIs). A maximum of \$1,500 per travel award is allowed. Funds are to be used for travel expenses, lodging, meals, registration, and other justifiable expenses. The highest priority will be given to faculty members and students who will be presenting biomedical research they have conducted during the WV-INBRE summer research program or at their home institutions. Students may be supported to attend meetings with their summer or institutional mentor. No funds can be spent to support the summer mentors' travel. Travel to meetings by PUI faculty and students who will not be presenting research but anticipate that attendance will enhance their educational or profession development or is beneficial to the WV-INBRE will be considered. Meetings centered on biomedical research will receive priority. Other meetings, if adequately justified, will be considered for grants. **The travel must be completed by July 15, 2026.** Applications may be submitted any time prior to July 1, 2026. If there are questions, please contact Dr. Werner Geldenhuys at (304) 581-1683 or werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu