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Subject: Limited Competition: NIH Director's Early Independence Awards (DP5), RFA-RM-13-009

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The NIH Director's Early Independence Awards provide an opportunity for exceptional junior scientists to accelerate their entry into an independent research career by forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period. Though most newly graduated doctoral-level researchers would benefit by post-doctoral training, a small number of outstanding junior investigators would benefit instead by launching directly into an independent research career. For these select investigators, who have established a record of scientific innovation and research productivity and who have demonstrated unusual leadership, drive, and maturity, post-doctoral training would unnecessarily delay their entry into performing independent research. The NIH Director's Early Independence Awards also provide an opportunity for institutions to invigorate their research programs by bringing in the fresh perspectives of the awardees that they host.

At the time of application, the Early Independence Award candidate must be within twelve months before or after the completion of their PhD (or equivalent) or for clinicians within twelve months before or after the completion of their medical residency (or equivalent) training. The medical fellowship period is NOT included as part of the medical residence or equivalent training. The date of degree receipt is that which appears on the official transcript for the degree. The time of application is the date when the application is submitted electronically to NIH through Grants.gov. In addition, at the time of application, the Early Independence investigator must not have served as a post-doctoral fellow following a previous doctoral degree for more than one year. By the end of the award period, the Early Independence investigator is expected to be competitive for continued funding of his/her research program and for a permanent research position.

Approximately 10 awards are anticipated, contingent upon availability of funds and receipt of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Awards will be for up to \$250,000 in direct costs per year, plus applicable Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs. The award period is 5 years. More details can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-13-009.html>. The deadline for optional letters of intent are due December 31, 2013 with full proposals to the agency is January 31, 2014.

**This is a limited competition; each institution (as defined by having a unique DUNS identifier) may submit only up to two applications. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line indicating: RFA-RM-13-009 - your name. No late submissions will be considered.** The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative (including: 1. A statement of how an Early Independence Award would accelerate **entry** into an independent research position and why this would be of benefit to the PD(s)/PI(s) career. 2. What is the scientific challenge that you wish to address in your research? Why is this challenge significant to the biomedical/behavioral research community? What is the expected impact of your research on this challenge? Why did you choose this particular challenge to begin your independent research career? 3. What is your

experimental approach in addressing your research challenge? What is the logic that makes this scientifically compelling? Provide evidence of exceptional scientific creativity and productivity.) The narrative should be accompanied by a draft budget overview and an abbreviated PI CV. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Susan De Los Santos ([sdelossa@unm.edu](mailto:sdelossa@unm.edu) or 277-0272) or Monica Fishel ([mlfishel@unm.edu](mailto:mlfishel@unm.edu) or 277-8114).

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information