I. BACKGROUND
The Alaska IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The primary objective of Alaska INBRE Faculty Pilot Research Project program is to provide support for projects in the biomedical and health sciences to faculty involved in biomedical and health research. Pilot projects must align with the research focus areas of the Alaska INBRE program with a priority given to projects unique to Alaska’s environment, populations, and exposures. Priority will be to fund highly-ranked proposals from faculty who can demonstrate how funding will expand his/her professional development, that are in alignment with INBRE’s biomedical and health initiatives, those without other funding sources, and those that are collaborative and will most likely lead to extramural funding. Preference will be given to those engaged in translational research.

Additional funding is available for multi-disciplinary studies in which two or more researchers from different areas of specialization combine their expertise in conducting biomedical or health research into questions that are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice. Multidisciplinary teams are recommended when the specific aims of the research project require specialized knowledge from more than one field in order to advance fundamental understanding of the research question or when the solution to the problems being addressed is beyond the scope of a single discipline.

II. ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must have a faculty appointment at a UA campus at time of award. Investigators cannot have two research projects supported at the same time from an IDeA mechanism (ex. INBRE, IDeA CTR-IN or COBRE.)

III. AMOUNT & DURATION OF AWARD:
This Alaska INBRE Faculty Research Pilot Award is a twelve month award with up to $75,000 in direct costs awarded for one investigator and $125,000 in direct costs for multiple investigators working collaboratively on one project.

IV. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
A complete application will consist of a single PDF document, which includes all of the following sections. Unless otherwise noted in this announcement, follow the instructions for the PHS 398 Grant Application which can be found at the following link http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html. Page limits are noted by section.

Section 1: Form Page 1: Face Page and Form Page 2: Summary, Relevance, etc. = 2 pages

Section 2: Specific Aims – Limited to 1 page (Continuation Form Page)

Section 3: Research Strategy – Limited to no more than 6 pages (Continuation Form Page) to include the following 3 sections:
Significance
Innovation
Approach
If a proposal has multiple Specific Aims, then the applicant may address Significance, Innovation, and Approach for each Specific Aim individually, or may address Significance, Innovation, and Approach for all of the Specific Aims collectively. Regardless of the option selected, the page limit remains the same.

Section 4: Budget – Submit a detailed budget (Form Page 4) and a detailed budget justification for the entire proposed project period (Form Page 5). = 2 pages

Section 5: INBRE Specific Information - Limited to 3 pages (Continuation Form Page)
(1) Explain how your research project expands biomedical or health research at UA and builds research capacity;
(2) Explain how your project is NIH relevant and develops further expertise in alignment with the aims and initiatives of INBRE, which are biomedical and health research and the interface of the environment, health and disease in people and animals;
(3) Explain how the project is, or can lead to, research that is translational in nature;
(4) Explain how this project will lead to applications for extramural funding;
(5) Brief summary and outcomes of prior INBRE research support, if applicable.


Section 7: Multiple PIs - Applications for multi-disciplinary studies with multiple PIs from different disciplines are allowed one extra page for the multiple PI rationale and leadership plan. Current NIH Biosketch must be included for each PI. The biosketch may be a maximum of 5 pages long (using the new NIH Biosketch format). In order to qualify for increased funding, the pilot grant application must include:

- Name, department, areas of specialization, and contact information for each of the multiple PIs representing different disciplines or areas of specialization
- Rationale for choosing the multiple PI approach including an explanation of how each of the distinct disciplines will contribute to moving science forward and why the specific aims cannot be met without including more than one discipline
- A leadership plan addressing communication plans, the process for making decisions on scientific direction, and procedures for resolving conflicts

Section 8: Appendix - Please attach any needed citations, the name and contact information for one reviewer, and/or letters from collaborators if relevant. The reviewer must be available to review the proposal in the necessary timeframe and without a conflict of interest. The appendix does not count against the page limits for the proposal.

SUBMISSION: Applicants should prepare text documents using any word processing program and then convert those files to a single PDF document before submission via email to inbre@alaska.edu. PDF FORMAT IS REQUIRED. Save all files as follows: “faculty member(s) last name MAU Mod-15 pilot app.” Example: Smith UAS Mod-15 Pilot App. If you have any questions regarding the file name or format, please contact Alaska INBRE PA Julie Benson at jcbenson@alaska.edu. Please follow your institutional requirements for departmental approvals and signatures.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRED FOR SECTIONS 2, 3, & 5

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS
*Font: Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. (A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; the font size
requirement still applies.) Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch.

♦ Paper Size and Page Margins: Use standard paper size (8 ½” x 11”). Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. No information other than page numbers should appear in the margins, including the PI’s name.

♦ Page Formatting: Use only a standard, single-spaced, single-column format for the text. Number all pages sequentially and centered at the bottom of each page.

♦ Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes: You may use a smaller type size but it must be in a black font color, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement. Color can be used in figures; however, all text must be in a black font, clear and legible.

♦ Grantsmanship: Use English and avoid jargon. If terms are not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses. The abbreviation may be used thereafter.

V. REVIEW PROCEDURES & CRITERIA

Step 0: Early submission is encouraged. If submitted by April 7, 2015 by 9am AST, an administrative review will be conducted and feedback provided no later than noon on that date so that corrections can be made in advance of the 5pm deadline.

Step 1: Submission deadline is April 7, 2015 at 5pm AST. All submissions will receive an email confirmation of receipt within 24 hours of submission.

Step 2: The INBRE Management Advisory Committee (MAC) will review the pilot project proposals, recommend reviewers, and select the proposals that will move forward to review.

Step 3: The proposal will be externally reviewed by two reviewers: one recommended by the applicant if available and one selected by the MAC. These reviews are returned to the INBRE MAC prior to distribution to the INBRE External Advisory Committee.

Step 4: The INBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) will review and rank the proposals and make recommendations to the PI and co-I.

Step 5: The PI and co-I will select which proposals will be forwarded to NIH for final review from those determined to be meritorious by the EAC.

Step 6: NIH will review and approve the proposals for funding.

Step 7: Upon confirmation from NIH, Alaska INBRE will fund the selected pilot projects.

Applications that are complete will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by scientific reviewers in accordance with NIH peer review procedures (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/) using the following review criteria:

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following five core review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).
Core Review Criteria. Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s). Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

Relevance. How does the proposed research develop further expertise in alignment with the aims and initiatives of INBRE which are biomedical and health research and the interface of the environment, health and disease in people and animals?

Budget and Period Support. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.

VI. SELECTION PROCESS
Applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications. Priority will be to fund highly-ranked proposals from faculty who can demonstrate funding will expand his/her professional development, that are in alignment with INBRE’s initiatives, collaborative proposals, those without other funding sources, and those that will most likely lead to extramural funding. Preference will be given to those engaged in translational research.

VII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Alaska INBRE follows the NIH Guidelines for Conflict of Interests available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/coi_information.pdf Please ensure that recommended reviewers included in Section 7: Appendix do not have a conflict of interest.
VIII. AWARD CONDITIONS
To maintain an active award, pilot recipients will provide an annual report of research progress that will be reviewed by the INBRE Management Advisory Committee and External Advisory Committee for scientific progress. Reports are due April 1 each year for submission in the annual progress report. Additional report details will be provided in the award notification.

Pilot recipients must follow the expenditure plan outlined in the budget. Failure to expend funds could result in dollar reallocation. INBRE does not permit carryforward of pilot funding from one year to the next. All funds must be correctly utilized within the requested timeframe.

Presentations (oral or poster) and publications must include the following acknowledgement and disclaimer:

“Research reported (on this poster/in this publication) was supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P20GM103395. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.”

All safety training required at your University of Alaska campus must be completed in the first month of work performed.

Failure to comply with award conditions will render faculty ineligible for one year to apply for future INBRE funding.