Fax Cover Sheet

Date: September 13, 1994
To: Rosalind Dudden
National Jewish Resp. Hospital
From: John Carlson
RE: Extramural Programs Information
Fax #: 270-2149

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Message:

Please call after you have a chance to review.
Thank you
The National Library of Medicine (NLM) provides grant assistance to medical centers and health science institutions and organizations for planning and operational projects leading to the implementation of Integrated Advanced Information Management Systems (IAIMS). IAIMS are institution-wide computer networks that link and relate library systems with individual and institutional databases and information files, within and external to the institution, for patient care, research, education, and administration. The goal is to create an organizational mechanism within health institutions to manage more effectively the knowledge of medicine, and to provide for a system of comprehensive information access.

Since 1983 when NLM initiated IAIMS support, seventeen institutions and organizations have received awards for one or more phases of activity, and much has been learned and achieved. Applicants should be familiar with these experiences and take advantage of them in their planning and operations to the extent practicable. The climate has changed significantly in recent years as a number of institutions have made extensive investments in information systems. Furthermore and importantly, the advent of the High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) Initiative of the Federal Government has dramatically enriched the possibilities of information transfer, while increasing the complexity of information management. The HPCC program recognizes "that unprecedented computational power and its creative use are needed to investigate and understand a wide range of scientific and engineering 'grand challenge' problems" (see references). Some of the problems identified are of obvious interest to biomedicine: National Research and Education Network (NREN), biotechnology, transmission of digital images, intelligent gateways to retrieve information from multiple life science databases, and innovations in educational techniques, among others. The NLM is the lead biomedical organization in the HPCC initiative, and incorporation of HPCC goals and objectives into IAIMS activities is expected.
grant to assist in implementing the plan. The operational phase grant may include an initial period of model development and testing at the discretion of the institution, but a distinct period of model building before implementation is not required. Significant participation by the health sciences library is essential.

The IAIMS operational phase can be quite complex and involve many people and tasks. Applications must make clear all aspects of budgets and activities, as well as the interrelationships. Plans will vary for different institutions, but certain key elements are common to all:

1. Essential

- A plan for developing the institution's information management resources, and the requisite networks.
- A functional information management policy.
- Designation of leadership with appropriate background and status.
- A plan for supporting IAIMS after termination of the grant.
- Time tables for reaching key features of the operational plan such as development of the network, organization of the management structure, appointment of leadership, and post-grant funding stability plans. [The ability of funded institutions to reach such milestones in a timely manner will be evaluated by NLM when deciding annually on continuance of support.]
- The ability to provide efficiently bibliographic and related literature pertinent to health care delivery and research. There must be substantial involvement by the library.

- Substantial incorporation of one or more elements of HPCC/NREN into the institution's information system. [Connection to Internet, for example, is one such element; other examples include collaboration through high speed networks, distance learning, addressing of computationally intensive problems in molecular biology in a distributed environment, visualization techniques, and network-based visual imaging.]

2. Highly Recommended

- A clear relationship to clinical aspects of the health sciences, such as linkage with a computerized patient record, a hospital information system, clinical alert information-distribution systems, clinically relevant expert systems, and/or systems for monitoring quality of care and cost-control.
- Incorporation of current NLM objectives such as connection to national networks, direct access to Medline® and/or extensive use of Grateful Med®, outreach components which improve information access for health care workers in under-served rural or inner city locations and in other health care sites affiliated with the applicant.

3. Optional

An apprenticeship in IAIMS may be incorporated into the operational plan at the discretion of the applicant through a position entitled IAIMS Assistant. An educational program should be described, outlining the credentials of the candidate, the goals and duration of the apprenticeship, the structure of the learning experience, and other relevant material. Personnel, travel, and supply costs may be requested up to a total of $50,000 for each year of the operational phase. Costs for the apprentice should be budgeted in accord with standard institutional policy.
Support for Operations

Operational phase grants may be for up to $500,000 per year for up to five years, or for up to $550,000 per year for five years if support for the apprenticeship program is included. Only direct costs are supported; no indirect costs are paid. Support will terminate at the end of the five-year operational phase, and is not renewable.

Critical Review Elements

Critical review elements include: responsiveness to the program and description guidelines, institutional commitment to the IAIMS concept, evidence of significant cost-sharing, plans for support of IAIMS after the grant period, identification of milestones and evaluation methods, and sophistication and feasibility of the operational plan.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW

Applicants must use the PHS 398 application kit (rev. 9/91), which includes forms, instructions and additional information. The kit is available at most academic medical centers or from:

Office of Grants Inquiries
Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Bldg., Room 449
5333 Westbard Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20892
Telephone: 301-496-7441

It is also available from the Extramural Programs, NLM, at the address listed below.

Applications must be received by the standard NIH deadlines as explained in the PHS 398: i.e., February 1, June 1, and October 1.

Applications will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit by NLM's initial review group, the Biomedical Library Review Committee (BLRC). Following initial review, the NLM Board of Regents will provide secondary review for program goals and policy considerations.

ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION

Because of the complex nature of IAIMS activities, interested parties and potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact program staff early. Staff will discuss program status and experience, and provide additional information about current activities. Before contacting staff, a review of IAIMS publications should be completed (see listing at end).

Please contact:

IAIMS Program
Extramural Programs
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, MD 20894
Telephone: 301-496-3113
FAX: 301-402-0421
Internet address: dick_west@ccsiew.nlm.nih.gov

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Special Note: This Fact Sheet describes the IAIMS Program which was substantially revised in 1992 and presented in an NIH Program Announcement (PA-92-100, August 14, 1992). The references below are for information from both former and current IAIMS Program experiences.


2. *SCAMC Proceedings*. The annual proceedings of the Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care (SCAMC) contain many reports of current IAIMS activities. The proceedings are available from the American Medical Informatics Association, 4195 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 302, Bethesda, MD 20814.


SUGGESTED IAIMS CONTACTS

J. Robert Beck, M.D.
Vice President for Information Technology
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza
Houston, TX 77030
713/798-4730

Elizabeth K. Eaton, Ph.D.
Director, Health Sciences Library
Tufts University
136 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111
617/956-7481

Sherrilyne Fuller, Ph.D.
Director, Health Sciences Library
Magnuson Health Sciences Center
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
206/543-5531

Randolph A. Miller, M.D.
Chief, Section of Medical Informatics
University of Pittsburgh
B50A Lothrop Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
412/648-3190

Walter B. Panko, Ph.D.
Director, ITN
University of Michigan Medical Center
1414 Catherine Drive
B1911 CFOB
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0704
313/747-2778

John A. Paton, Ph.D., Director
Office of Academic Computing
Yale University School of Medicine
P.O.Box 3333
New Haven, CT 06510
203/785-5181

David B. Pryor, M.D.
IAIMS Program Director
Duke University Medical Center
Box 3531
Durham, NC 27710
919/681-4256

Kent Spackman, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, BICC
The Oregon Health Sciences Univ.
3181 SW Sam Jackson-Park Rd.
Portland, OR 97201-3098
503/494-4502

William W. Stead, M.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
1500 21st Avenue South, Suite 2000
Nashville, TN 37212
615/343-0323

Pamela M. Van Hine
Assoc. Dir. and Librarian
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
401 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024-2188
202/863-2521