The Washington State legislature has recently dedicated $400,000 per year for the 2017-18 budget biennium to advance spinal cord injury research in Washington State. This has established the Washington State Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (WASCIC), administered by the Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering (CSNE), based at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The mission of the WASCIC is to enable improved function for persons with chronic spinal cord injury. Our vision is that focused investment will lead to advances in spinal cord injury treatments in Washington State and accelerate progress toward restoration of function after injury.

We invite proposals for research projects aimed at demonstrating — within the 1-2 year time frame of the award — improved function in subjects with chronic (i.e., older than one year) spinal cord injuries. Investigators at all UW campuses (Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell) are eligible to apply. Our intent is that awards of $25,000 to $100,000/year for up to two years will provide a catalyst to research efforts focused on improving human function after spinal cord injury. Although preference will be given to human studies of chronic spinal cord injury, strong proposals utilizing animal models in late-stage translational studies and research on acute spinal cord injury interventions will also be considered.

Areas of interest include all challenges following spinal cord injury, including but not limited to:
- Motor function of the upper or lower extremities
- Bowel, bladder and sexual function
- Autonomic system function, including cardiovascular, immune and digestive function
- Spasticity, neuropathic pain, sleep disturbances

All funded projects are required to submit quarterly progress reports, host laboratory tours, and/or participate in visits to Olympia to share your progress with interested legislators.

Funding may be used to support salaries of PI (limited to 10% FTE), staff, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Research expenses and supplies will also be supported as justified to complete the human subjects research and analysis. Reasonable equipment purchases will be considered, provided sufficient justification is provided detailing how purchasing these items will advance the SCI research capacity in Washington State.

**Application Requirements** (see additional details on pages 5-6)

Project applications must include:
- Completed project application form
- PI(s) and other personnel biosketches (NIH or NSF formatted biosketch).
- Clear specific aims
- Significance/background of research including a thorough state-of-the art review (SOAR)
- Metrics for evaluating progress toward specific goals
- Description of work to be performed.
- Proposed budget

Please contact Chet Moritz (ctmoritz@uw.edu) if you have questions about the scope of the program or the appropriateness of potential submissions.
Application Procedures

All proposal materials must be submitted electronically in a single PDF file to chudler@uw.edu by Sept. 29 2016. Each proposal must:

- include clear specific aims and deliverables;
- describe metrics for evaluating progress toward those deliverables;
- explain fit to WASCIC program;
- provide a timeline of quarterly milestones and deliverables (Gantt Chart);
- include a detailed budget justification for all funds requested.

Competitive proposals will clearly state how progress in human subjects research will be obtained within 1-2 years.

Selection Process
All proposals will be reviewed by a committee of community members with spinal cord injuries, researchers and clinicians with expertise in SCI. Review and funding will be administered by the CSNE. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of scientific rigor and alignment with the WASCIC mission and vision. The review committee will rank proposals and may suggest reduced budgets to maximize the impact of the available funding. Funding decisions will be made within a month after the application deadline, and funds will be available immediately via sub-budget administered by the CSNE.

Reporting and Participation Requirements
All PIs are required to
1. Provide information about progress and deliverables each quarter. Further funding is contingent on adequate progress. If progress is not satisfactory for two consecutive review quarters, funding may be terminated in order to assure impact of this investment.
2. Showcase their progress via lab visits and travel to Olympia to meet with state legislators and their staff as requested.
3. Respond to project inquiries from WASCIC and CSNE staff in a timely manner (within 1 week).
**WASCIC 2017 Project Application Form**

**Principal Investigator Information**
Name (Last, First): 
Email Address: 
Phone #: 
Department: 
UW Campus: 
Full Mailing Address: 

**Project Title:**

**Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals**
Are Human Subjects Involved?  ___Yes /  ___No  
If yes, IRB Approval Date/#: 
Are Vertebrate Animals Used?  ___Yes /  ___No  
If yes, IACUC Approval Date/#: 

If yes, a copy of IRB and IACUC approval must be submitted to the CSNE before the grant is awarded.

**Collaborators:** List any collaborators that are part of this project, and attach letters of collaboration at the end of the proposal.

On separate pages, please attach:

1. **Biosketch** (use current NIH Biosketch format, limit 5 pages per person);
   a. Principal Investigator(s)
   b. Key collaborators/co-investigator(s)
   c. Postdocs or Graduate student(s) to be supported by award

2. **Research Proposal** Limited to 3 single-spaced pages (11 point Arial font, 0.5” margins) including:
   a. Abstract of the proposed project
   b. Specific Aims of the project and hypothesis to be tested
   c. Significance/background of research including a thorough state-of-the-art review (SOAR) of the relevant literature and a description of how the proposed work fits with WASCIC goals
   d. **A timeline of quarterly deliverables presented in a Gantt chart is essential.**
   e. Methods/materials to be used (e.g., subjects, techniques, data analysis, etc.), expected results, potential pitfalls. Include metrics to measure success of the project and evaluation procedures.
   f. Plans to disseminate research and consideration of education/outreach, diversity and ethics/values/security issues
   g. Reference list of publications cited in the proposal (not included in the three page proposal limit)

3. **Proposed budget** (1-2 pages) Please provide a justification for support of all personnel (e.g., % FTE, benefits). PI Support is limited to 10% FTE. For graduate student research assistants, budgets should itemize stipend, tuition, and benefits. Travel support is limited to trips to Olympia for sharing data with the legislature. Provide a justification for all materials, supplies, and participant costs. Provide a detailed justification for any equipment requests (i.e., durable items greater than $10,000).

Proposals must be submitted electronically in a single PDF file to chudler@uw.edu. Contact Dr. Eric H. Chudler (email: chudler@uw.edu; phone: 206-616-6899) if you have questions regarding the mechanics of the application or submission process.

**Deadline for receipt of all application materials:** 11:59 pm PT, Sept. 29, 2017