

January 8-9, 2014

**ITEM 162-1019-R0114**  
**Neural Injury Center**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes the University of Montana-Missoula to create the Neural Injury Center.

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**EXPLANATION**

The University of Montana proposes a new Neural Injury Center, with the purpose of integrating existing scientific, educational, and clinical expertise within different UM academic units to provide resources dedicated to serving military veterans with neural injuries (e.g. traumatic brain injury [TBI], post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], stroke, spinal cord injury) as they progress from medical rehabilitation to the college campus, vocational training, employment, and community living. The Center will offer support and education for family members through on-campus opportunities and follow-up support. The Center will provide veterans, both on-and-off-campus, with information regarding PTSD and TBI and provide anonymous screening, consultation, ongoing treatment (if needed), and networking with existing community resources. In addition, the Center will support basic and clinical research to translate laboratory discoveries into improved care for patients with TBI.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Level II Request Form

Curriculum Proposal

**Montana Board of Regents**  
**LEVEL II REQUEST FORM**

Item Number: 162-1019-R0114 Meeting Date: January 8-9, 2014  
Institution: University of Montana-Missoula CIP Code: 13.106  
Program Title: Neural Injury Center

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

**Level II action requested (place an X for all that apply and submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form):**

Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees; and
- 4. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

**Specify Request:**

The University of Montana proposes a new Neural Injury Center, with the purpose of integrating existing scientific, educational, and clinical expertise within different UM academic units to provide resources dedicated to serving military veterans with neural injuries (e.g. traumatic brain injury [TBI], post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], stroke, spinal cord injury) as they progress from medical rehabilitation to the college campus, vocational training, employment, and community living. The Center will offer support and education for family members through on-campus opportunities and follow-up support. The Center will provide veterans, both on-and-off-campus, with information regarding PTSD and TBI and provide anonymous screening, consultation, ongoing treatment (if needed), and networking with existing community resources. In addition, the Center will support basic and clinical research to translate laboratory discoveries into improved care for patients with TBI.

## Montana Board of Regents CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

### 1. Overview

The proposed Neural Injury Center (NIC) will be a collaborative of faculty and facilities located on the campus of the University of Montana – Missoula (UM). The focus of the Center is to integrate existing scientific, educational and clinical expertise within different UM academic units to provide a centralized and unique combination of personnel and resources dedicated to serving military veterans with neurological injury (e.g. traumatic brain injury [TBI], stroke, spinal cord injury etc.) as they progress from in-patient rehabilitation to the college campus, vocational training, employment and community living. The NIC will also offer support and education for family members and caregivers through on-campus opportunities and follow-up support. The NIC will provide veterans, on- and off-campus, with information regarding post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and TBI and provide an opportunity for anonymous screening, consultation, ongoing treatment if needed, and networking with existing community resources. In addition, the NIC will support basic and clinical research to translate laboratory discoveries into improved care for patients with TBI. The NIC will not duplicate existing services, but rather provide new opportunities and support for veterans, particularly those wishing to engage in the pursuit of educational goals. Currently no Center or facility provides a singular location for supporting the needs of the veteran and caregivers during their educational and vocational pursuits. The integration of these activities in an environment that also encompasses clinical trials and translational research among the Center's collaborating scientists also sets the NIC apart from other programs.

The Center will be housed and administered within the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. Academic programs centrally involved will include the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Department of Health and Human Performance, School of Social Work and the Department of Psychology. The Center will be closely affiliated with the Nora Staael Evert Physical Therapy Clinic, which includes three integrated programs, UMPT Sports & Orthopedics, UMPT Neurological and Mobility Impairments, and the UMPT New Directions Wellness Center. The latter is a facility dedicated to providing fitness programs and education for the disabled.

Collaborating programs will likely include, but are not limited to, UM's Veterans Office, UM's Department of Health and Human Performance, UM's Rural Institutes on Disabilities, UM's Western Montana Health Education Center, the Community Medical Center Bridges Program, the Montana Neuroscience Institute Foundation, and the Montana Brain Injury Center. It is also anticipated that Center staff will form a close relationship with healthcare professionals at the Veteran's Hospital in Fort Harrison, Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center in Missoula, and provide unique opportunities for the State's newly accredited Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana.

### **2. Provide a one paragraph description of the proposed program. Be specific about what degree, major, minor or option is sought.**

As described above, the Center will integrate existing scientific, educational and clinical expertise within different UM academic units to provide a centralized resource dedicated to serving military veterans with brain injury (e.g. traumatic brain injury [TBI], post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], stroke, spinal cord injury) as they progress from in-patient rehabilitation to the college campus, vocational training, employment and community living. The NIC will also offer support and education for family members through on-campus opportunities and follow-up support. The Center will provide veterans, on- and off-

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campus, with information regarding PTSD and TBI and provide an opportunity for anonymous screening, consultation, ongoing treatment if needed, and networking with existing community resources. In addition, the NIC will support basic and clinical research to translate laboratory discoveries into improved care for patients with TBI.

**3. Need**

**A. To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?**

There are over 600 veterans receiving educational benefits at the University of Montana. In discussions with the University's Veteran's Education and Transition Services Office (VETS Office), it has been brought to our attention that many veterans struggle with brain-related injuries that compromise their educational experience. Veterans who served prior to 2010 might never have received screening for TBI or PTSD and are not receiving any services. Moreover, Montana is second in the United States in both the percentage of veterans per capita, and TBI-related deaths. The University of Montana-Missoula already has a nucleus of scientists working in TBI and related areas. The NIC seeks to strengthen this nucleus to enhance interdisciplinary interaction, extramural funding success, and advancement of laboratory studies to translational and clinical trial work.

**B. How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?**

Student veterans will be the primary beneficiaries of the proposed Center. In addition, it is anticipated that students enrolled in the physical therapy, psychology, pharmacy, neuroscience and speech pathology programs will benefit through exposure to a veteran client base receiving treatment, screening or consultations within the center. As research teams grow, it is also anticipated that there will be benefits to graduate students.

**C. What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?**

There are at least 600 veterans receiving educational benefits at the University of Montana. It is thought that the number of students who are veterans is higher than this figure because currently there is no way of knowing if a student is a veteran unless they are receiving financial assistance and prior to 2010 combatants were not screened for TBI upon exiting the service. This information was provided by the University's Veteran's Education and Transition Services Office.

**4. Institutional and System Fit**

**A. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?**

Collaborating programs will include, but are not limited to, the University's Veterans Office, the Montana Neuroscience Institute Foundation, Western Montana Area Health Education Center, Department of Pharmacy Practice, School of Social Work, School of Public and Community Health Sciences, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Clinical Psychology program, and Department of Health and Human Performance. It is also anticipated that center staff will form close relationships with healthcare professionals at Providence St. Patrick Hospital and the aforementioned newly accredited residency program in family medicine. The overriding connection among the programs is advancement of knowledge and services to the veteran.

**B. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution? If so, please describe.**

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No

**C. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate).**

The University's Veteran's Education and Transition Services Office provides services to veterans. These services focus on obtaining financial benefits, networking with other national veteran organizations and local health-care providers and providing a supportive environment and meeting place for veterans. The proposed Center will be focused on research and rehabilitation services. There will be a strong collaboration between the Center and the VETS office, but there will not be any duplication of services.

**D. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?**

The Center's focus on research and community service fit extremely well with the University's mission. The NIC will contribute to teaching, research and service in numerous ways. Teaching will be enhanced, especially in clinically-related areas. One of the challenges for non-medical school based physical therapy, pharmacy and communication science curricula is the lack of daily contact with patient populations. As students rotate through our on-campus clinics it is anticipated that they will have the opportunity for observation and hands-on treatment of our wounded veterans. This experience will be invaluable.

Research will be a primary focus of the Center and it will facilitate increased interactions among scientists engaged in various aspects of brain injury. To our knowledge, there is no similar facility in the Northwest region that houses scientists engaged in such a wide range of research interests (from molecular to translational) within a single center devoted to TBI. It is anticipated that collaborations will result in increased funding opportunities and entrepreneurial activity. The Center will establish a new research emphasis on TBI and related brain injury.

Service to the community, the state of Montana and military veterans is another major focus and strength of the proposed Center. While there are many disparate services available to veterans within the state, there is no single location or service that provides the veteran with guidance for both their medical and educational needs. Importantly, our public outreach and educational efforts will seek to reach those veterans who may not know that they are experiencing a treatable problem. It is well-reported that many veterans believe cognitive and coordination problems are normal impairments post-combat. Others fear the stigma of asking for help. We hope to reach these individuals by providing public outreach and a facility where anonymous screening can take place. And, if needed, provide ongoing treatment without compromising their educational and vocational efforts. The Center's location on the University of Montana campus and near to Missoula College creates a perfect opportunity of convenience for the veteran and ease of collaborative efforts on the veteran's behalf of medical and educational personnel.

The NIC is consistent with and will remain committed to the University's strategic plan and aspirations through 2020. Through its programs, it will help students with disabilities, specifically veterans, succeed academically and personally (Partnering for Student Success); facilitate recruitment of non-resident veteran students and building stronger governmental relationships (Education for the Global Century); facilitate and conduct critical basic and applied research (Discovery and Creativity); attract national experts through unique service, and research opportunities, increase professional

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development opportunities, and improve facilities (Dynamic Learning Environment); and be engaged in the elements associated with the Planning-Assessment Continuum, to ensure long-term Center viability.

- E. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.**

Existing programs at the University (as well as at the local, and state level) provide for a wealth of possible collaborations but no known program duplications. University programs and services include the following:

- University of Montana Veterans' Office (umt.edu/veterans): Provides campus lounge for veterans and advice on GI bill.
- Montana Neuroscience Institute Foundation
- OCHE Veterans Success Initiative

Members of the steering committee have met with representatives from the University's VETs office, and the Montana Neuroscience Institute Foundation. There was much useful dialogue during these meetings with many recommendations being incorporated into this proposal. The meetings established a collaborative atmosphere and established that there were no duplication of services.

**5. Program Details**

- A. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum. Where possible, present the information in the form intended to appear in the catalog or other publications. NOTE: In the case of two-year degree programs and certificates of applied science, the curriculum should include enough detail to determine if the characteristics set out in Regents' Policy 301.12 have been met.**

Not applicable

- B. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.**

It is expected that the program will be phased in beginning with an interactive veterans' web resource, available in the Spring of 2014. In the interim, campus services relevant to veteran services will be organized by focus groups, to create innovative communication strategies for veterans to engage in learning about and accessing services designed to reduce barriers to higher education. By the fall of 2014, the Neural Injury Center will begin to offer screening, evaluative and as appropriate, therapeutic services for clients with neural injury, particularly traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury.

It is not anticipated that students will become directly involved until the 2014-2015 academic year, principally interacting with clients as they currently do in the Nora Stael Evert Physical Therapy Clinic. With increased clientele, it is expected that the opportunities for student engagement will both increase in number but also broaden by diagnoses.

Associated research projects will begin in earnest during the 2014-2015AY and these projects would be

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expected to increase the number of graduate students in a variety of disciplines.

**6. Resources**

**A. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.**

No additional faculty resources are required at this time.

**B. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.**

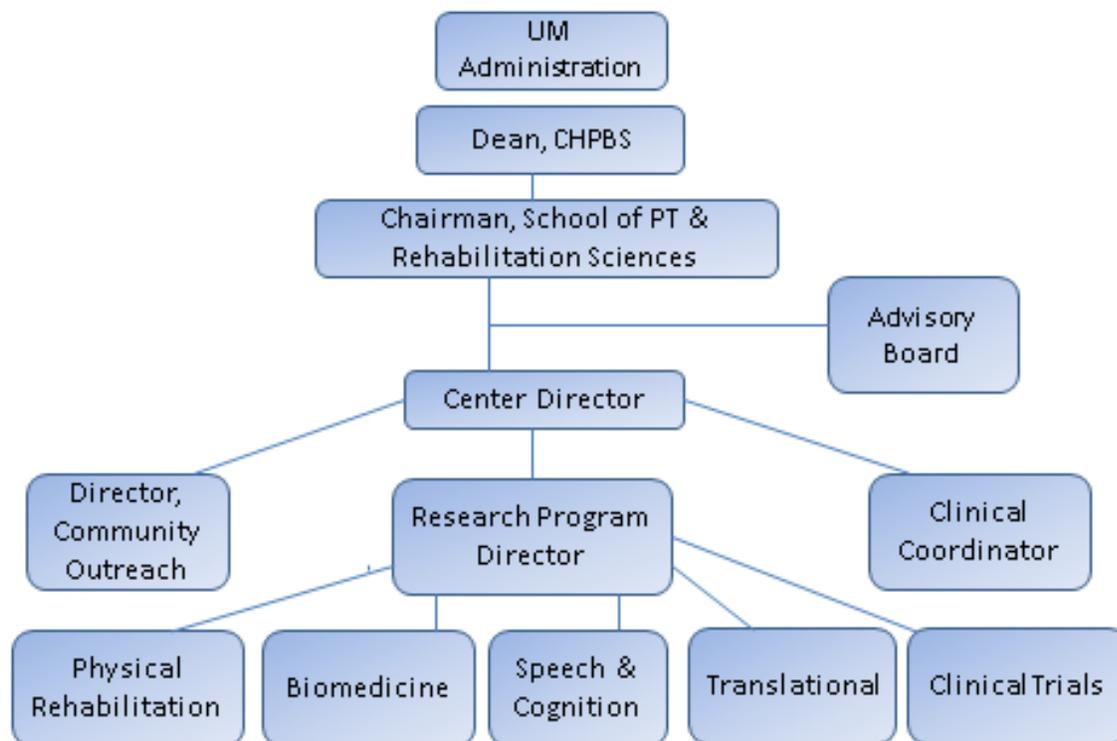
It is anticipated the Center will benefit from a variety of both publicly and privately funded agencies. The budget as proposed is a conservative estimate of direct revenues to sustain the Center budget over five years.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>Revenue</b>					
Program Fees – Net revenues from client care (physical therapy, speech, psychology)	n/a	3000	4000	5000	6000
Other Funds – from OCHE/MUS (Veteran's Success Initiative)	50000	25000	0	0	0
Other Funds – private donation	50000	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
State Funds (UM General Fund)	0	0	0	0	0
State Funds – Physical Therapy Designated Account	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>120000</b>	<b>128000</b>	<b>124000</b>	<b>175000</b>	<b>226000</b>
<b>Costs</b>					
Personnel (Faculty, professionals, staff)	75406	90317	93026	95817	98691
Equipment	2000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Supplies	500	750	1000	1250	1500
Travel	2000	4000	4000	4000	4000
Other Expenses (Year 1, a funded project (OCHE) is budgeted to enhance web communication with clients. Years 1-5 include expenses for work-study student assistance and a \$10,000 fee waiver for a PhD student.	34000	16000	16000	16000	16000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>113906</b>	<b>16067</b>	<b>119026</b>	<b>122067</b>	<b>125191</b>

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**7. Assessment - How will the success of the program be measured?**

Specific outcome measures will include the number of clients accessing the center, feedback from the University's VET center, the number of referrals made by the Center to other veteran-related services, new research projects initiated, research publications and amount of extramural funding sought and obtained. The following policies are in place; 1) the Director will report to the Dean of the College of Health Professions or his/her designate, which may initially be the Chair of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science; 2) the Research Director will prepare periodic reports on the research efforts of the Center to be submitted to the Center Director; 3) the Scientific Advisory Board will meet semi-annually and provide a written report to the Center Director.



**8. Process Leading to Submission**

The concept of a Neural Injury Center originated in the fall of 2011 as a proposal to the Campus Development Committee and a subsequent concept paper developed by Reed Humphrey, Ph.D., Chair of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, to create an educational and medical intervention and research program for- but not limited to – veterans and their families. The proposal called for the establishment of an integrated neuroscience community within The University focusing on neural injury and rehabilitation. Out of this effort came the concept of a program for veterans and their families entitled “Project Flourish.” This effort would be unique in that it would combine research, rehabilitation, and education. This project, physically housed and administered in the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences School of Physical and Rehabilitation Science, would partner with existing programs in the state such as the Wounded Warriors Project, the Station Foundation, and Team

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Red, White and Blue to offer comprehensive services to veterans and their families, as well as all victims of traumatic brain injury, stroke and spinal cord injury.

The original planning group included Reed Humphrey, Chair of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, Professor Charles Leonard (Physical Therapy), Associate Dean Vernon Grund, Michael Kavanaugh, Director of the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, and Richard Bridges, Chair of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A larger steering committee will add community members and a veteran, the Director of UM's Veterans Center, and representatives from Pharmacy Practice, Social Work, Public and Community Health Sciences, Family Practice Medical Residency, Communicative Sciences and Disorders, and Clinical Psychology.

Professor Charles Leonard has been in charge of drafting the Neural Injury Center proposal. He and/or Chair Reed Humphrey has met with and discussed the concept of the proposal with various groups in the community and on campus for constructive feedback. This includes representatives from the Wounded Warriors Project, Community Hospital Bridges Program, the Montana Neuroscience Institute, the Montana Brain Injury Center, the UM Veterans Center, and representatives from the Board of Regents.

The project has received some preliminary financial support via the OCHE Veterans Success Initiative and the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science. It is consistent with efforts at the University to improve services for veterans on campus and enhance veteran enrollments and retention. It has been reviewed by faculty in the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, by the Associate Dean for Planning and Development, and by the Dean of the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. It has been approved by the Faculty Senate.