Request for Applications, Cycle 3

**Sponsor:** F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd.
**Program:** UCSD Health Sciences-Roche Extending Innovation Network
**Internal Receipt Deadline:** December 3, 2012 by 8:00 AM
**Award Amount:** $100,000/year direct for two years
**Date of this RFA:** November 1, 2012

**Overview**

The University of California San Diego is partnered with Roche through their Extending Innovation Network (EIN), which also includes agreements with Harvard, UCSF, and other universities. The first two review cycles for the UCSD/EIN program were held in 2011 and 2012 and have led to four currently funded projects.

For this third cycle, Roche has not set specific areas of interest but is open to any innovative concept with potential to drive drug discovery. Key examples would be exploratory projects involving novel technology platforms or drug targets. The work should ultimately have potential to advance drug discovery in the broad areas of oncology, ophthalmology, CNS/neurology, virology or cardiovascular/metabolic disease.

Projects selected for funding normally receive $100,000 direct costs per year for a period of two years. Roche may also provide in-kind contributions to the project, such as cell lines or compounds, subject to agreement with the PI. (Note that in-kind support affects Roche’s intellectual property rights; interested faculty may also review the contract between Roche and UCSD). Promising projects that have the potential to grow past the initial two years are encouraged and may be supported via continued funding, commercialization, or formation of spinout ventures.

**General Procedure**

Brief preliminary proposals (letters of intent, see following page) are due internally by **8:00 AM on December 3, 2012**. These will be forwarded to Roche if the UCSD-Roche EIN Program Steering Committee determines them to be appropriate based on innovation, scientific merit and relevance to Roche’s areas of interest. Roche scientists will then review the letters of intent and determine, by December 14, those for which they would like additional information. The applicants for the selected projects will have approximately 1 month to provide a more detailed proposal which will be used by Roche to make final decisions for funding.

Please see following page for submission instructions.
Submitting a Preliminary Proposal

UCSD faculty may submit preliminary proposals/letters of intent via email to Elizabeth Schebel (hsfunding@ucsd.edu) by 8:00 am December 3, 2012.

Note that the proposal format has changed from the prior two cycles.

The preliminary proposal must include the following:

1. A cover page with PI’s proposal title, name and contact information and a statement regarding whether the proposed work is being funded or considered for funding by any other company or industrial partner.

2. The PI’s NIH style biosketch. (Standard 4 page)

3. A one page overview of the project concept and significance.

Proprietary information should be excluded from the overview because it will be viewed by Roche. In addition, providing patentable information in the overview may prevent filing a valid patent application

Please combine all of the above documents into ONE PDF and email (hsfunding@ucsd.edu) by the deadline. Be sure to include your name and contact information in the body of your submission email, such as by including an email signature.

Questions regarding this program can be sent to Elizabeth Schebel (hsfunding@ucsd.edu) or to the UCSD EIN Program Steering Committee members:

   Joan Heller Brown (brownoffice@ucsd.edu)
   Michael Gilson (mgilson@ucsd.edu)