

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE

C. Capital Assets Committee

Regional Biocontainment Laboratory Grant Proposal

In September of 2003, the UW School of Medicine was awarded a \$50,000,000 federal grant from the National Institutes of Health to create a Regional Center of Excellence for the study of Biodefense and Emerging Infections Diseases. There are eight such centers and the attached map shows the other seven. The impetus for completing this construction grant for \$25,000,000 was the solicitation (RFA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for a Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL). The facility would become the home for Center programs. An RBL must preferentially support NIAID-funded biodefense and emerging infectious disease research; will serve as a regional resource for research institutions in the area; and must be available and prepared to assist national, state and local public health efforts in the event of a bioterrorism emergency. While our preliminary project cost estimate is \$65,000,000 to construct the facility, the proposal was submitted by the December 31, 2004 deadline with the understanding that the \$25,000,000 in federal funds, along with the University's commitment of \$8,340,000, were insufficient to cover the estimated project costs. Additional funding will need to be identified in order to accept any award if the proposal is successful.

Benefits to the University

- Provides a home for the Regional Center of Excellence (RCE), a \$50M NIH Grant awarded to UW in 2003;
- Able to leverage \$25 million of Federal construction money;
- Provides increased recognition that UW and Seattle form the center of infectious disease (ID) research and vaccine R&D in the western United States;
- Able to consolidate similar research programs and 18 senior researchers, in an advanced technology facility that meets — or exceeds — Federal standards for protecting laboratory workers and the environment;
- Promotes major assistance for the renewal of the RCE in 2008;
- Increases the University's ability to recruit new faculty and attract new ID research programs;
- Releases prime laboratory space in the Health Sciences Building for other research activities; and,
- Encourages the potential to develop specific bio-sensors for Bioterrorism agents.

Four potential campus sites were identified to be evaluated on several indices, including: proximity to existing similar research; program functionality; life-safety for employees; public safety; and security. Security of the site and building

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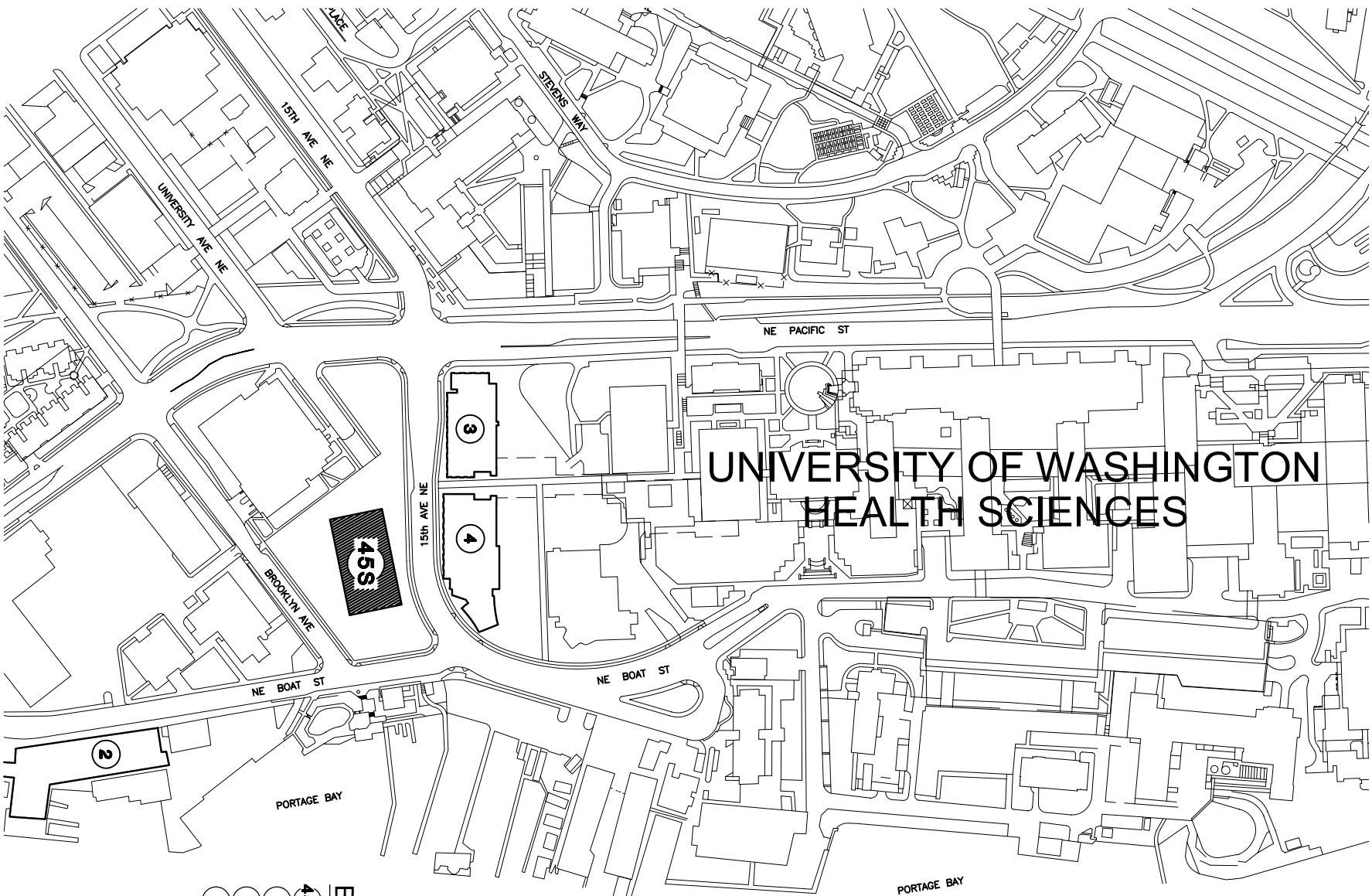
Regional Biocontainment Laboratory Grant Proposal (continued p. 2)

components was given a #1 priority based on the NIH requirement that the facility house Select Agents, identified as category A, B, and C priority pathogens. These are biological agents that may be used for weapons of bioterrorism.

The footprint for this facility was also critical in selecting the site, as the consultants determined a minimum footprint of 25,000-30,000 gross square feet was required to satisfy the programmatic and functional nature of the research protocols. The maximum building envelope on the preferred site, identified as #45S in the Campus Master Plan, is 110,780 GSF. The program defines a need for 86,000 GSF of functional space with a net-to-gross ratio of 60%. There is a mechanical penthouse and a 14,000 basement, resulting in a 100,000 GSF structure.

A preliminary Program of Requirements and Functional Space List has been developed. This program maximizes the capacity of the site and provides a home for the recently awarded Regional Center of Excellence (RCE). It also provides space for affiliate infectious disease research programs in areas like Genome Sciences, Allergy & Infectious Diseases, Immunology, Microbiology, Medical Genetics, Pharmacy and Public Health/Community Medicine.

ENCLOSURES



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH SCIENCES

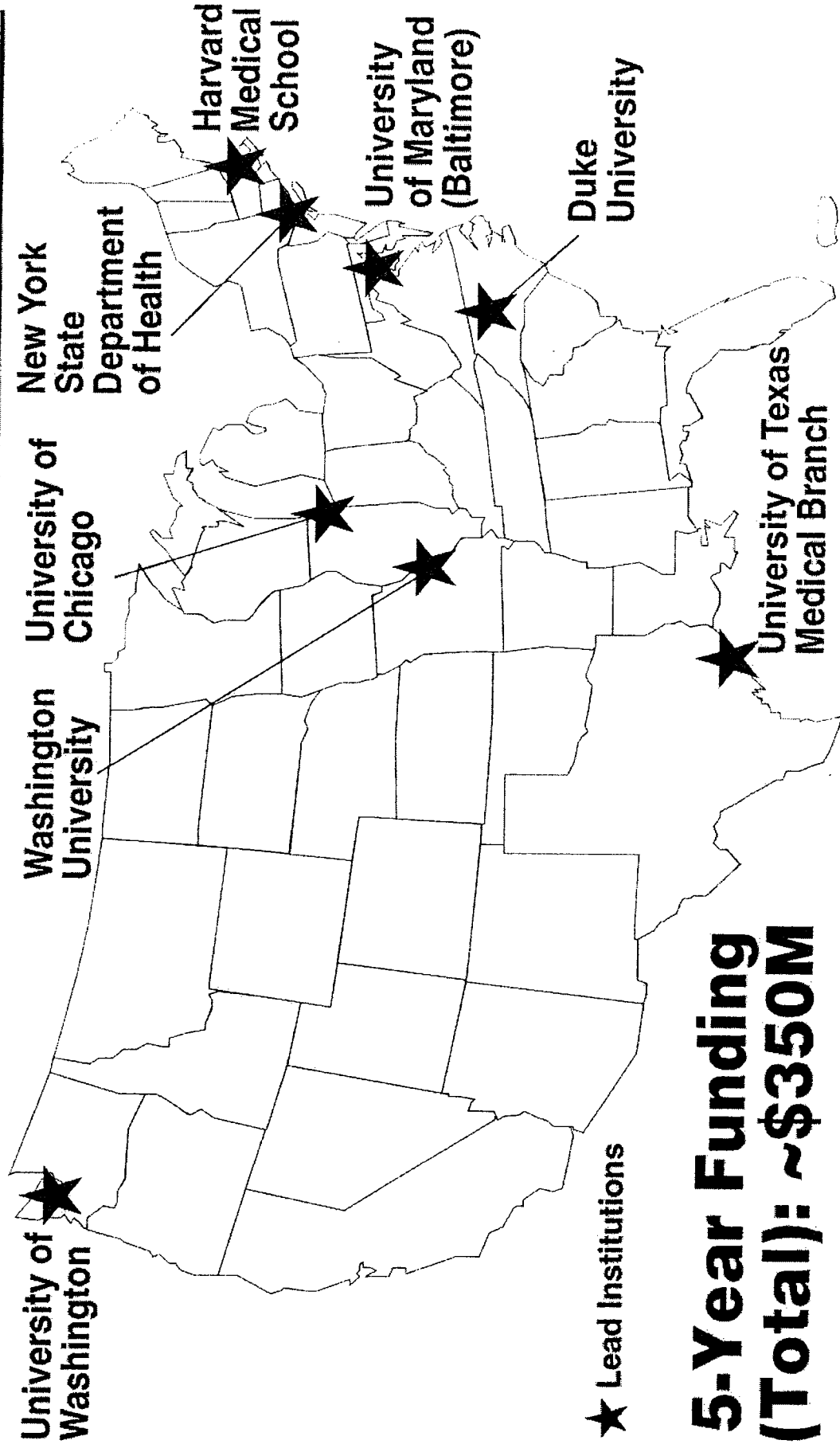
BUILDING LIST

- 455** REGIONAL LAB
- 2** BRYANTS BUILDING/
UNIVERSITY POLICE
- 3** BIOENGINEERING BUILDING
- 4** GENOME SCIENCES



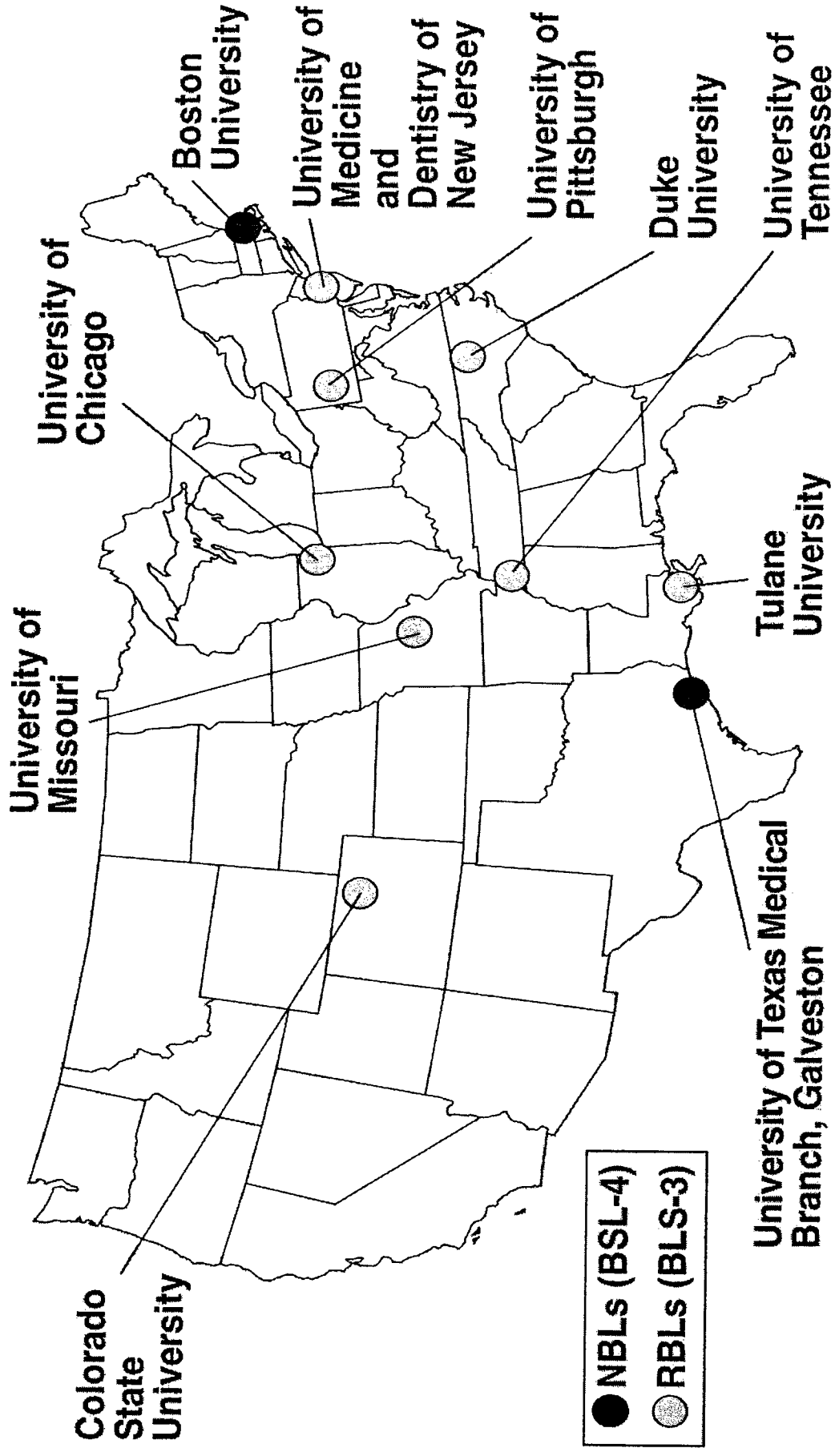
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NIAID Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (RCEs)



**5-Year Funding
(Total): ~\$350M**

NIAID-Supported National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBLs) and Regional Biocontainment Laboratories (RBLs)





Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

December 16, 2004

Dr. Paul Ramsey
Vice President for Medical Affairs and
Dean of the School of Medicine
University of Washington
Box 356350
Seattle WA 98195

Dear Dr Ramsey:

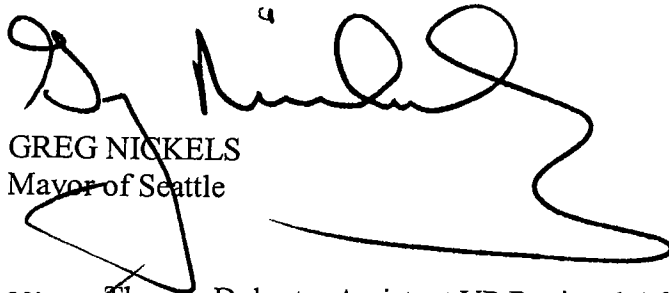
I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the University of Washington, School of Medicine's application for a National Institutes of Health Regional Bio-containment Laboratory (RBL) Construction Program grant in the amount of \$25 million dollars.

The University of Washington is the City's largest employer with a daily population of over 65,000 people and over 1 billion dollars in annual research grants. My administration has successfully worked with the University and the community to change City regulations which enable the University to continue as the City's engine of economic opportunity. To that end, my administration and our City's Department of Design and Planning stand ready to assist the University in their efforts to design and construct a Regional Bio-Containment Laboratory (RBL) on the Seattle campus.

Currently, there is a shortage of such facilities and an RBL in our region would enhance our ability to contribute to the development of new antibiotics and vaccines that will protect our citizens from harm and make a major contribution in the arena of global health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle

cc: ✓ Theresa Doherty, Assistant VP Regional Affairs U of W



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 13, 2004

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Thompson:

We are pleased to support of the University of Washington School of Medicine's application in response to the recent National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction of a new Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL).

We applaud you for taking action on the initiative to create a national network of biocontainment facilities which will address a critical national need. In September, 2003, our University of Washington was awarded a DHHS grant for one of the eight Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases. This Center will focus on basic research, education and training in biodefense and emerging infectious diseases. The ultimate goal of the Center is to develop new vaccines and therapies to protect people from potentially devastating disease organisms. The UW assures us that there will be robust outreach and educational programs throughout our region to keep the public informed about safety and security issues as well as the development of new treatments.


The current RFP offers an opportunity to accelerate these activities through construction of an appropriate research facility. In addition to making the Northwest an integral part of the network the facility would enhance the UW's ability to contribute to the development of new antibiotics and vaccines that could protect our citizens and make a major contribution to global health.

We supported the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act that authorized these Centers of Excellence. As early proponents of this bill that created the partnership between the federal government and research institutions to support cutting edge research to protect against a bioterrorist attack, we are pleased that University of Washington was selected.

We have great confidence in the researchers in our state and we wish to acknowledge our support of their proposal.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray
Patty Murray
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

GARY LOCKE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

December 23, 2004

Dr. Paul G. Ramsey
Vice President Medical Affairs
Box 356350
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Dear Dr. Ramsey:

I am pleased to express my enthusiastic support of the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine's grant application to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for development of a regional biocontainment laboratory on the UW campus.

The UW has a distinguished history of biomedical research. It is home to one of only eight *Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases* (RCE) supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The RCE's crucial research offers great promise for expanding local and national advances in fighting infectious disease. The UW is a logical base for a stand-alone facility to house the specialized biomedical research of skilled experts who are drawn to this state and the opportunities it offers.

The development of such a facility would build upon the work of the RCE and sustain the UW's position as a leader in essential biomedical research. It also would support the development of tools vital to the public health as our country faces the uncertainties of potential bioterrorism. Additionally, it would provide a unique regional resource to assist local and state public health partners in critical laboratory efforts necessary for effective emergency response. The associated coordination with the Washington State Department of Health and its Public Health Laboratory would be immensely valuable in meeting the goals of emergency preparedness for this state.

I am proud that our region is stepping up to the challenge of advancing global health and providing protection from bioterrorism threats. Again, I urge your favorable consideration of this important grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Locke".

Gary Locke
Governor

The Seattle Times
Saturday, December 11, 2004

Editorial

UW vs. the flu

Between no **flu** shots and new concerns about the bird **flu** in Asia, experts have warned the world is at risk for another **flu** pandemic.

But take heart. University of Washington School of Medicine researchers are trying to gain insights into why the strain of influenza that spawned the 1918-19 "Spanish **Flu**" outbreak was so deadly. **UW** Department of Microbiology researchers are participating in a multisite study examining a portion of the virus's genome that could shed light on ways to better protect people from serious strains of influenza. This is only one example of the ground-breaking research the University of Washington continues to be involved with across many medical and academic disciplines. This year, professor Linda Buck won a Nobel Prize for her work in explaining the sense of smell.

The **UW** ranks first among all U.S. universities in competitive federal research grants. All this while state funding for the **UW** has declined. **UW** President Mark Emmert, in a recent speech, noted that comparable universities are able to spend an average of \$3,000 more per student. The **UW** needs help from the community, region and state that benefit so richly from its work.

In October, the **UW** Foundation launched the public portion of \$2 billion Creating Futures fund-raising campaign to shore up the university across its many colleges, departments, research programs and instructional missions.

The **UW** is an excellent investment. For information about the **UW** and the campaign, go to <http://www.uwfoundation.org/>.

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Terrorism Defense Lab Ahead For GMU

Vaccines Will Be Tested, Developed

By Michele Clock

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, November 10, 2004; Page B05

George Mason University will build a \$40 million high-security laboratory in Prince William County to test and develop new vaccines and treatments to defend the public against bioterrorism, officials announced yesterday.

University officials will seek \$25 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to help pay for the facility. GMU has committed to paying the balance but hopes that it can recover the funds through other private and public grants, officials said. Groundbreaking could begin as soon as 2006, but timing will depend on funding.

The 70,000-square-foot lab will be part of GMU's National Center for Biodefense, a graduate program designed to train a new generation of experts to defend society from the estimated 80 pathogens emerging and in existence worldwide. Inside, graduate students and scientists will study airborne biological pathogens and how to fight them. They will also evaluate how new vaccines and therapeutic drugs can protect against such pathogens as anthrax, tularemia and the plague, said Charles L. Bailey, the center's executive director and a former commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick.

"We feel that [this facility is] very important," he said. "It could be available to support federal agencies in the event of an emergency. . . We like the fact that we're relatively close to the military's premier laboratory [Fort Detrick] . . . and we can take advantage of some of their staff for our teaching and research."

Sean T. Connaughton (R), chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, touted the plan yesterday as a step toward establishing Prince William as an international center for biodefense research.

"Step by step, we're seeing the pieces of the puzzle fall together for Prince William," he said. The lab "really is going to make a dramatic impact, not just on our community, but on the nation and world. They need this facility no matter what."

The lab is the latest in a string of economic development projects to come to this part of the county, just west of the city of Manassas. The American Type Culture Collection, a nonprofit repository for cell lines, microorganisms and other biological materials, including many dangerous bacteria and viruses, makes its home in Prince William. Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Mediatech Inc., a biotech company now in Herndon,

both plan to locate plants in the county's Innovation industrial park, which includes GMU's Prince William campus, just west of the Manassas city line.

Unlike Fort Detrick, which researches, develops and tests vaccines and therapeutic drugs for the military, the focus of this lab will be to protect the public, Bailey said. Because such dangerous pathogens can't be tested on people, the only way the Food and Drug Administration can gather data on their effects is to use animals whose reactions are similar to that of humans, Bailey said. Mice and monkeys, among other animals, could be used, he said.

The lab will operate under strict FDA guidelines, which govern everything from record-keeping to the types of equipment used, Bailey said. Strict security measures -- similar to those at Fort Detrick -- will be in effect, he said. A mound of dirt and fencing will surround the facility. Background checks and extensive training will be required for anyone who has access to the germs under study. Also, researchers will work inside gas-tight glove boxes inside rooms with several air filtration systems, inside other rooms, he said.

The quantities tested will be so small that even if pathogens do escape, it's highly unlikely that they could pose a threat, he said.

University officials are discussing whether to build the lab on the Prince William campus or just beyond it, said Lawrence D. Czarda, vice president of the campus.

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Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)
September 5, 2003

OHSU LOSES BID TO BE U.S. BIODEFENSE CENTER

Author: ANDY DWORKIN - The Oregonian

Summary: The University of Washington is among eight regional centers picked by the U.S. government to look into infectious diseases. The U.S. government on Thursday rejected Oregon Health & Science University's request for \$40 million to fund a center for studying diseases that terrorists might use.

The National Institutes of Health picked eight institutions -- among them the University of Washington -- to develop new, regional centers that will seek better ways to detect, stop and treat infectious disease outbreaks. It rejected five such bids, including one led by OHSU.

The loss is a blow to the Portland institution's ongoing bid to bolster its national reputation and enter the top echelon of U.S. medical research universities.

Several OHSU officials also think the loss hurts their chances of winning either of two grants that would underwrite the construction of new labs, including a top-security disease-research facility in Hillsboro. Those grant requests seek about \$160 million. The National Institutes of Health plans to announce the winners late this month.

"We feel that, following today's announcement, our chances of receiving the other two grants are low," OHSU spokesman Jim Newman said Thursday.

The eight institutions picked Thursday to lead Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research will split \$350 million in federal money over five years.

Congress ordered the new centers and labs to bolster the nation's ability to deal with biological terrorism following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and subsequent mailings of anthrax spores.

Later this month, the NIH will name four to eight sites where it will pay for regional labs for infectious disease testing. It will also pay for one or two new national labs at "Biosafety Level 4" -- the highest security level -- where workers can study the deadliest diseases, such as the E. coli virus.

Newman said many at OHSU think that those institutions leading the new regional centers have a leg up in winning grants to build labs.

But Rona Hirschberg, an institutes' official who is helping oversee the biological defense programs, Thursday said, "nobody should conclude anything about who will get (the labs) based on today's announcement."

She said Thursday's eight grant winners were picked for the importance and practicality of the research they proposed, as judged by fellow scientists. The NIH will award lab grants based on different criteria, including "the strength of the design and their ability to pull off construction," as judged by a panel of engineers, architects and lab safety experts.

In addition, not every institution chosen as a regional center on Thursday has applied to build a lab. For instance, UW did not ask for the lab grant, spokesman Walter Neary said.

Each winning group was led by one institution, usually a university, but included workers at several medical research sites! . Hirschberg said winners were picked based on their scientific proposals and proposals on how to run the centers, train new scientists and start up small-scale research projects.

Hirschberg said that officials "considered the regional distribution" of the eight centers but that geography was not a main factor in the choice.

UW is only center in West

The group led by UW in Seattle is the only regional center in the West.

The other centers are led by researchers in Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Illinois, Missouri and Texas.

Two other schools won planning grants, which the NIH said "could lead to the future establishment of a regional center." They were the Universities of Iowa and Minnesota.

Once they are running, the eight centers' work will include "developing new vaccines against anthrax, plague, tularemia, smallpox and Ebola," as well as finding ways to screen for those diseases and treat anyone infected by them, according to an NIH document.

Hirschberg said each center has a different focus, based on its scientists' strengths. The institutes will help coordinate their work to make sure that overall the group tackles all the diseases the government has targeted for study. For example, UW's group, which includes researchers in Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho, will study how airways become infected and inflamed. It will also focus on certain bacteria that cause diseases including the plague and tularemia. The UW consortium won \$50 million over five years.

In February, OHSU unveiled a consortium it developed to pursue the grants, calling it the Pacific Rim Biodefense Center. The center's researchers said they would focus on diseases including West Nile and Dengue fever. And they proposed studying why some people, such as the elderly or those on chemotherapy, are more susceptible to catch diseases and have bad reactions to vaccines.

Besides OHSU, the Pacific Rim center included Oregon State University, Princeton University, the universities of Hawaii, Idaho and Nevada-Reno, and the Pacific Northwest National Lab in Richland, Wash.

OHSU will continue research

Despite losing out on the regional grant, OHSU will work to continue the research the Pacific Rim Biodefense Center's scientists proposed, Provost Lesley Hallick said in a written statement Thursday.

"While OHSU is of course disappointed in today's announcement, we plan to move forward with our research projects involving SARS, West Nile virus, monkeypox and other infectious diseases that threaten Northwest residents and other Americans," Hallick said. "We feel the research to generate new vaccines and treatments for these diseases cannot wait."

Much of that work is being done at OHSU's Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute in Hillsboro, which recently produced evidence that smallpox vaccinations may be partly effective for decades longer than previously thought.

Newman noted that OHSU can still get about \$2.5 million to form a National Center for Research on Bioterrorism Agents. U.S. Rep David Wu, D-Ore., helped get that funding approved by the House of Representatives; it is waiting to be considered by the Senate.

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