BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

ACTION ITEM
Request to Establish The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
This Request to Establish “The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components” has developed from an opportunity for UNCG to participate as one of six UNC campuses at the North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) that is being developed in Kannapolis, NC. The proposed UNCG Center will be a satellite to the research activities in the Department of Nutrition at UNCG, will be housed in the UNC Nutrition Research Building at the NCRC, and will house two Senior Research Scientists (with appropriate non-tenure-track rank). One of these Scientists will also serve as Director of the Center who reports directly to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition in the School of Human Environmental Sciences on the UNCG campus. This Center will provide an identity to the UNCG Department of Nutrition satellite research activities, based at the NCRC and distinguish it from research programs from the other UNC institutions that will also be housed at the NCRC.

RECOMMENDED ACTION
It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro approve the establishment of The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components.

A. Edward Uprichard
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Form A
Request to ESTABLISH an Institutional Center or Institute

Within two years of receipt of permission to plan, the proposed center/institute must submit a request to establish.
Submit three copies of all materials to the Associate Provost for Research and Public / Private Sector Partnerships, 1601 HHRA, Campus

Contact Information:
Name: Deborah E. Kipp
Title: Chair, Department of Nutrition
Campus Address: 319 Stone Bldg
Campus Telephone: 256-0266
FAX number: 334-4129
E-Mail address: d_kipp@uncg.edu
Other contact names and email addresses:

I. General Information

Proposed Name of Center/Institute:
The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components

Date Approval to Plan granted (attach copy of approval letter): 3/20/2007

Organizational structure
☒ Center
☐ Institute

Proposed Status
☒ Institutional (UNCG campus only). Complete this form.
☐ Inter-Institutional (involves more than one UNC system campus)

STOP: If you checked “Inter-Institutional,” you must follow a different procedure to gain Office of the President approval to plan for and establish a center/institute. Contact the Associate Provost for Research and Public / Private Sector Partnerships at 256-0429 for more information.

Type of Center / Institute
☒ Research
☐ Public Service
☐ Instructional
☐ Membership [will receive substantial portion of funding from membership fees paid by corporate or other private/governmental entity]

Please attach responses to the following. Provide the information on one side of the paper, 1 ½ inch left margin, all other margins 1 inch, Times Roman. Do not exceed 5 pages.
Request to Establish “The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components”

This Request to Establish “The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components” has developed from an opportunity for UNCG to participate as one of six UNC campuses at the North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) that is being developed in Kannapolis, NC. The proposed UNCG Center will be housed in the UNC Nutrition Research Building and will house two Senior Research Scientists (with appropriate non-tenure-track rank). One of these Scientists will also serve as Director of the Center who reports directly to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition in the School of Human Environmental Sciences on the UNCG campus. This Center will provide an identity to the UNCG Department of Nutrition satellite research activities, based at the NCRC and distinguish it from research programs from the other UNC institutions that will also be housed at NCRC.

II. State the proposed mission of the center or institute.

The mission of this Center is to (1) conduct externally-funded, independent faculty research that explores the molecular and cellular mechanisms of nutrition and the interplay among bioactive food components and genetics, (2) collaborate with scientists from North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina Agriculture and Technological State University, and University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and other institutions that will also be located at the NCRC, depending on research interests, expertise, and opportunities, and 3) participate in the research mentorship of graduate students, Post-Doctoral Fellows, and other research staff as applicable.

III. Explain how the proposed name of the center or institute accurately reflects the scope of the mission of the center or institute.

Faculty researchers will broadly focus on fundamental research questions that enhance our basic understanding of the contribution of dietary components in promoting health. The scientific studies would evaluate cellular and molecular mechanisms of action of bioactive food components, to understand molecular targets for these dietary components and to expand our fundamental understanding of their benefits to human health. The proposed Center name was selected to reflect this research emphasis.

IV. Describe the relevance of the mission of the proposed Center / Institute to the UNCG mission, including any impact upon the existing academic departments, centers, and institutes.

UNCG is a diverse, student-centered research university, linking the Triad and North Carolina to the world through learning, discovery, and service. As a doctorate-granting institution, it is committed to teaching based in scholarship and advancing knowledge through research.” The mission of The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components is closely aligned with the UNCG mission. The major responsibilities of the UNCG Senior Research Scientists in the Center will be to conduct highly-competitive, independent research, obtain significant external funding for their research, build the UNCG component of the NCRC, mentor students and other research personnel, and participate as a member of the Department of Nutrition at UNCG.

V. Provide a vision statement for the proposed center/institute.

The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components will be a leader in addressing basic research questions relevant to understanding the potential benefits of bioactive food components to maintaining health and preventing disease. In this capacity, the faculty will interact with the Department of Nutrition on the UNCG campus, with other faculty and Research Centers on the UNCG campus, and with researchers from other institutions that are also located at the NCRC campus. No Center that addresses a mechanistic understanding of bioactive food components and is aligned with an Institute that
enhances bioactive components of fruits and vegetables (the NCSU program at NCRC) exists nationally or internationally, thus providing unique research opportunities.

VI. **Provide a five-year list of the specific goals of the proposed center/institute.**

2006-2007
- Submit documents for Permission to Plan and Permission to Establish the Center.
- Initiate recruitment for the Senior Research Scientist and Director and for the second faculty member (also a Senior Research Scientist) both with appropriate non-tenure-track rank).
- Obtain approval of Board of Trustees for the Center.
- Work with architects to plan research lab and office space in the NCRC building and equip the offices and lab areas with furniture and basic scientific equipment.

2007-2008 (Year 1)
- Hire Director and other Senior Research Scientist
- Continue purchasing scientific equipment and setting up office and laboratory areas.
- Conduct research, publish manuscripts, submit grant proposals to external agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the US Department of Agriculture, as appropriate.
- Recruit Administrative Assistant, Research Technicians, and graduate students/post-doctoral fellows as appropriate.
- Initiate contact with other institutions that will have programs at the NCRC.

2008-2009 (Year 2)
- Continue to conduct research, submit research grants, develop collaborations with other Scientists at the NCRC and on the UNCG campus, and recruit and hire research personnel.
- Establish Advisory Board.

2009-2010 (Year 3)
- Continue to conduct research, submit research grants, develop collaborations with other Scientists at the NCRC and on the UNCG campus, and recruit and hire research personnel.

2010-2011 (Year 4)
- Continue to conduct research, submit research grants, develop collaborations with other Scientists at the NCRC and on the UNCG campus, and recruit and hire research personnel.

2011-2012 (Year 5)
- Continue to conduct research, submit research grants, develop collaborations with other Scientists at the NCRC and on the UNCG campus, and recruit and hire research personnel.

VII. **Describe how productivity will be evaluated.**

The primary outcomes that will determine research productivity will include the amount of external research funds obtained, research proposals submitted, manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at scientific meetings, and training of students, post-doctoral fellows and other research personnel. Other indices will include collaborative arrangements and interactions with other scientists on the NCRC campus and on the UNCG campus.

VIII. **If relationships with the external community are a part of the vision of the proposed Center/Institute, describe how this will occur and how its effectiveness will be measured.**
The Center will interact with the community on outreach educational activities and discussions that become part of the NCRC as organized by one of the UNC campuses or an outside constituency (such as thematic groups including scientists, educators, community groups, and health care groups focused around nutrition and preventative health.

IX. **Provide information about the proposed director.**
Both Senior Research Scientists must have highly competitive, independent nutrition research programs, and a strong record of external research funding. Candidates exploring the health benefits of dietary components and/or functional foods will be encouraged to apply. The successful applicants must also possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to work with others in a collegial team atmosphere, and desire to work in this novel academic research environment. Applicants wishing to be considered for the Director position must also provide evidence of management and leadership capabilities and experience.

X. **Describe any proposed advisory or policy boards.**
An Advisory Committee for this Center is planned. This Committee will be directed by the Chair of Nutrition, and will be composed of the following people: Director of Center, Dean of the School of Human Environmental Sciences, Associate Provost for Research and Public/Private Partnerships, Chair of the Department of Nutrition, NCRC Science Board Member from UNCG, and additional outside members (to be determined).

XI. **Attach the proposed center/institute’s organizational chart. Clearly explain, on the chart or in written form, the relationship of the center or institute to any academic units.**
The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components will be housed in the UNC Nutrition Research Building at the NCRC in Kannapolis, NC. The UNCG personnel in Kannapolis, roughly 70 miles from Greensboro, will operate their labs and offices as a satellite of UNCG’s Department of Nutrition. The Center Director will report to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition, School of Human Environmental Sciences, on UNCG’s main campus.

XII. **Supply budget estimates for the first year of operation, projections for the following four years, and anticipated sources of funding. Justify items included on the budget.**
Funding support for this Center will come from a state appropriation. UNCG has received $622,000 in state money this year for the Center, and is slated to receive $1.8 million next year, much of which will be spent on hiring the Scientists and other personnel, purchasing scientific equipment and providing other start-up costs. In future years, recurring state funding is expected to be about $1.5 million, which will be supplemented by external grants and contracts.

**Year 1 2006-2007:** The UNC Nutrition Research Building will be completed in February 2008. Funds allocated for 2006-2007 are being used to invite distinguished Scientists to participate in an international conference, to be held at UNC Charlotte on April 15-17, 2007; as part of the conference, the participants will visit the NCRC campus. The conference is entitled, “Who We Are & What We Eat: The Role of Metabolomics and Nutrigenomics in Creating Healthier Foods and Healthier Lives.” Scientific leaders from many disciplines will address how genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics will change the future of nutrition during this conference. This conference is co-sponsored by all six of the UNC system universities that are part of the NCRC and Duke.

Funds are also being used for administrative start-up costs (office equipment, computers, furniture) and for scientific start-up costs (purchase of basic laboratory equipment.
Year 2  2007-2008: The Senior Research Scientist/Director and the second Senior Research Scientist will be recruited in 2007, with a target start date as soon as possible after July 1, 2007. This early start date will help facilitate equipment purchases and other arrangements needed in preparation for the opening of the NCRC building. Both Scientists will receive $250,000 for core research support, to be used for salary and research costs. Salary levels will be highly competitive in order to attract outstanding researchers (with one as Center Director). The Scientists’ salary will come out of the recurring yearly allotment of $250,000 per year. The actual amount of salary money that will come from this fund will vary depending on the Scientist’s grant support from external funding sources. The remainder of these funds will be used in support of their research, either towards salaries of research personnel or research operating costs. One-time research start-up funds for both Scientists ($350,000 each) will also be provided this year, to purchase large, expensive, specialized research equipment for their laboratories.

Theses Scientists will establish their labs in the UNC Nutrition Research Building at NCRC. They will set up the labs, conduct research, and submit grants for external funding. The Administrative Assistant will be hired by the Center Director in conjunction with the other Senior Research Scientist. Research staff, such as Research Technicians, may also be hired. Salaries for research personnel would come from either research funding provided to the Scientists through the state allocation or through their external grants. They will start recruiting graduate (Ph.D.) students and/or Post-Doctoral Fellows, and funds are included in the budget to support these research trainees.

Funds are also included for rent for the offices and research laboratory space in the NCRC, for operating funds, and for administrative start-up costs (office equipment, computers, furniture for the graduate students/Post-doctoral Fellows).

Year 3  2008-2009: The Scientists will continue to hire research personnel (as needed), conduct research, publish research, present research at scientific meetings, submit grants for external funding, and recruit/train graduate students/Post-Doctoral Fellows. They will each receive $250,000 for salary and research costs and $200,000 for supplemental research support contingent on productivity. Funds are also included for rent for the offices and research laboratory space in the NCRC, for operating funds, and for equipment maintenance and repair.

Year 4  2009-2010: The Scientists will continue to hire research personnel (as needed), conduct research, publish research, present research at scientific meetings, submit grants for external funding, and recruit/train graduate students/Post-Doctoral Fellows. They will each receive $250,000 for salary and research costs and $200,000 for supplemental research support contingent on productivity. Funds are also included for rent for the offices and research laboratory space in the NCRC, for operating funds, and for equipment maintenance and repair.

Year 5  2010-2011 and beyond: The Scientists will continue to hire research personnel (as needed), conduct research, publish research, present research at scientific meetings, submit grants for external funding, and recruit/train graduate students/Post-Doctoral Fellows. They will each receive $250,000 for salary and research costs and $200,000 for supplemental research support contingent on productivity. Funds are also included for rent for the offices and research laboratory space in the NCRC, for operating funds, and for equipment maintenance and repair.

XIII. Explain immediate space needs and project space needs for the next five years.

The Center will occupy ~5100 sq feet of wet lab and offices space on the 4th floor of the UNC Nutrition Research Building that will be part of the North Carolina Research Campus. This building is projected to open in February 2008. We are currently looking into renting office space at Cannon Village, Kannapolis, NC which is adjacent to the construction site for the NCRC. This space would be used by The Senior Research Scientists and their staff until the research building is completed. NCSU, UNC CH and NC A&T SU have already rented space at this location for their programs to use. Funds to cover the rent will come from the state allocation.
XIV. **Describe how a website will be maintained.**

Information about the Center will be part of the Department of Nutrition website that will be maintained by the department.

Submitted by:  Deborah E. Kipp

Title:  Professor and Chair, Department of Nutrition

Signature: 

Date:  

_______________________
March 15, 2007

A. Edward Uprichard, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
UNCG
Campus

Dear Dr. Uprichard:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to plan the UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components that will be housed in the UNC Nutrition Research Building at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis, NC. The UNCG personnel in Kannapolis, roughly 70 miles from Greensboro, will operate their labs and offices as a satellite of the university’s Department of Nutrition. The Center Director will report to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition, School of Human Environmental Sciences, on UNCG’s main campus.

The mission of this Center is to (1) conduct externally-funded, independent faculty research that explores the molecular and cellular mechanisms of nutrition and the interplay among bioactive food components and genetics, (2) collaborate with scientists from NCSU, UNC CH, and the other institutions that will also be located at the NCRC, depending on research interests, expertise, and opportunities, and 3) participate in the research mentorship of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and other research staff as applicable.

Funding support for this Center will come from a state appropriation. UNCG has received $600,000 in state money this year for the Center, and is slated to receive $1.8 million next year, much of which will be spent on equipment and other start-up costs. In future years, recurring state funding is expected to be about $1.5 million, which will be supplemented by external grants and contracts.

Once we have received Permission to Plan from you, we will prepare the necessary documentation for Permission to Establish, anticipating that this request will go before the Board of Trustees for its meeting in April.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

Deborah E. Kipp, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Nutrition

Laura S. Sims, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Human Environmental Sciences

Co: Dr. Rosemary Wander
March 18, 2007

A. Edward Urichard, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
UNCG
Campus

Dear Ed:

I strongly support the attached Permission to Plan for the UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components that will be housed in the UNC Nutrition Research Building at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis, NC. As indicated in the request, the Center will be headed by a Director, also based at the NCRC campus, who reports directly to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition in the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

This Center will provide an identity to the UNCG Dept. of Nutrition satellite research activities, based at the NCRC and distinguish it from research programs from the other UNC institutions that will also be housed at NCRC.

Sincerely,

Laura S. Sims, Ph.D.
Dean
March 20, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Sims, Dean
    School of Human Environmental Sciences
    Deborah Kipp, Chair
    Department of Nutrition

FROM: A. Edward Uprichard
      Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Request to Plan the Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components

I am writing to approve the attached request for permission to plan the Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. It would be possible to submit the request for permission to establish the Center to the Board of Trustees at their April 2007 meeting. Please proceed with developing the establishment request as per the Institutional Centers and Institutes General Guidelines/Procedures and contact Rosemary Wander if you have any questions. Thank you.


Attachment

c: Rosemary Wander