

1. Title: Digestive Disease Center Research

2. Purpose: The Michael E. DeBakey VAMC (MEDVAMC) is seeking contractor with the capability to furnish all labor, license, certifications, supervision, personnel, transportation to provide scientific procedures that include: Biostatistics consultations, Immunohistochemistry to include: IHC stain- two antibody stains (GATA 3 and Major Binding Protein) supplied by Core (per slide). Tissue sectioning from paraffin block. Replacing cellblock, 100 place slide box. IHC analysis. The Microbiome analysis to include: DNA and RNA extraction from paraffin block. Sequencing data generation and processing on each sample. Metagenomic analysis which includes Comparative genomics, Functional analysis, Metadata analysis, and Bioinformatic analysis.

3. Objective: To find qualified and certified contractors with the capability to provide scientific procedures. Objective is for Contractors to submit capability statement per the DRAFT SOW and answer the following questions below. (See Attached **Draft** Statement of Work Statement –SOW below)

4. Place of Performance: Baylor College of Medicine – Dept. of Medicine-Gastroenterology Section - One Baylor Plaza – MS BCM901 – Houston, TX 77030

5. Responses Requested: The MEDVAMC requires all the following questions answered in this RFI: Questions that are not provided shall be considered **non-responsive** to the Request for Information and **contractor shall not be considered** as part of the market research.

- a. Do your company possess the capability to provide the government requires services per the statement of work?
- b. Contractors shall also provide their point(s) of contact name, address, telephone number, and email address; and the company's business size, and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.
- c. Is your company a small business, SDBs, HUBZone, or 8A concern? **Contractor shall provide communication in capability statement. Contractor shall provide proof of qualifications.**
- d. Have contractor provided similar services? Contractor shall provide in capability statement a list of active contracts for commercial, federal, state, and local governments. List Contracts shall provide communication on the government requirement illustrating the capability for comparison.
- e. Is your company available under any Government Wide Agency Contract (GWAC), **General Services Administration Schedules (GSA)**, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ), and/or Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA)? **If so, please list the contract number and a brief summary of the products and services provided.**
- f. Provide a short summary of your potential approach to this type of contract and meeting the specific requirements per the draft Statement of Work and your experience managing similar contracts with similar requirements for the MEDVAMC.

6.Opportunity: The MEDVAMC, is seeking information from potential contractors on their ability to provide this service. **THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY.** Small Business Concerns are encouraged to provide responses to this RFI in order to assist the MEDVAMC in determining potential levels of competition available in the industry. Contractor shall provide answers to all questions requested and shall possess the capability to provide all requirements and objectives per the **DRAFT STATEMENT OF WORK.**

7.Instructions and Response Guidelines: RFI responses are due by June 20, 2017 at 9:00am (CST); size is limited to 8.5 x 11 inches, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins in Microsoft Word format via email to anthony.marion2.gov.

All Questions shall be submitted by June 15, 2017 at 12:00 pm (CST) via email to anthony.marion2.gov. Telephone requests or inquires will not be accepted. The subject line shall read: VA256-17-N-0860 Digestive Disease Center Research

NO SOLICITATION EXISTS AT THIS TIME. There is no page limitation on subparagraphs 5(a) - 5(f).

Please provide the information you deem relevant in order to respond to the specific inquiries of the RFI. Information provided will be used solely by MEDVAMC as "market research" and will not be released outside of the MEDVAMC Purchasing and Contract Team.

This RFI does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP), Invitation for Bid (IFB), or Request for Quotation (RFQ), and it is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to enter into a contract, nor will the Government pay for the information submitted in response to this request. All information contained in this RFI is preliminary as well as subject to modification and is in no way binding on the Government.

7. In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the U.S. Government to form a binding contract. If a solicitation is released, it will be synopsisized in the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) website or GSA. It is the responsibility of the interested parties to monitor these sites for additional information pertaining to this RFI, or future RFP.

8.Contact Information:

Contract Specialist, Anthony Marion
Email address: anthony.marion2@va.gov

Your responses to this notice are appreciated.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT A REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE QUOTES; however, any firm that believes it can meet the requirements may give written notification prior to the response due date and time. Supporting evidence must be furnished in sufficient detail to demonstrate the ability to perform the requirements.

DRAFT Statement of Work

Digestive Disease Center Research

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC)

1.0 Background: The requiring activity is the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC).

The contractor shall furnish scientific procedures listed below:

- Biostatistics consultations.
- Immunohistochemistry to include: IHC stain- two antibody stains (GATA 3 and Major Binding Protein) supplied by Core (per slide). Tissue sectioning from paraffin block. Replacing cellblock, 100 place slide box. IHC analysis
- The Microbiome analysis to include: DNA and RNA extraction from paraffin block. Sequencing data generation and processing on each sample. Metagenomic analysis which includes Comparative genomics, Functional analysis, Metadata analysis, and Bioinformatic analysis.

2.0 Scope: The contractor shall furnish the scientific procedures as listed above.

The contractor's initial offer should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost/price and technical standpoint. The Contracting Officer (CO) reserves the right to negotiate price, and terms and conditions at any time before contract award.

3.0 Place and Period of Performance: Baylor College of Medicine – Dept. of Medicine- Gastroenterology Section - One Baylor Plaza – MS BCM901 – Houston, TX 77030

4.0 Type of Contract: The type of contract will be a Firm Fixed Price Contract.

5.0 Performance Measures: Completion of scientific procedures of animal tissues samples.

6.0 Deliverables: Scientific procedures of animal tissues samples.

7.0 Changes to Contract or Statement of Work: Changes to this SOW or the impending contract shall only be authorized and approved through written correspondence from the CO. A copy of each change shall be kept in a project folder along with all other documents or items pertaining to the project. Costs incurred by the Contractor through the actions of parties other than the CO shall be borne by the Contractor.

8.0 Schedule:

Quantity	Description
2 EA	Biostatistics Consultations

1100 EA	<p>Immunohistochemistry to include</p> <p>IHC stain- two antibody stains (GATA 3 and Major Binding Protein) supplied by Core(per slide)</p> <p>Tissue sectioning from paraffin block</p> <p>Replacing cellblock</p> <p>100place slide box</p> <p>IHC analysis</p>
440 EA	<p>The Microbiome analysis to include</p> <p>DNA and RNA extraction from paraffin block</p> <p>Sequencing data generation and processing on each sample</p> <p>Metagenomic analysis which includes Comparative genomics, Functional analysis, Metadata analysis</p> <p>Bioinformatic analysis</p>

9.0 Inherently Governmental Functions

Contractor shall not perform any Inherently Governmental functions in accordance with FAR Part 7.5.

10.0 Quality Assurance

Contractors shall conform to quality assurance standards in accordance with best commercial practices, unless otherwise specified.

11.0 Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure

All information acquired and documents reviewed or handled during this contract belong to the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless otherwise specified in the affiliate agreement. The contractor recognizes that in the performance of this contract it may receive or have access to sensitive or confidential information, including personal information of VHA employees and

information proprietary in nature by system contractors, equipment manufacturers and other private or public entities. The contractor working with the COR shall ensure that all employees that may require access to sensitive or confidential information have the mandatory security clearances required for access, and only for the minimum number of employees necessary for contract performance.

The contractor shall indoctrinate its employees and all subcontractor employees working on this contract on the laws, rules and regulations governing access to sensitive and/or confidential information. All persons concerned shall understand that unauthorized access to or use of sensitive or confidential information related to this contract shall result in immediate termination of the individual or individuals from the contract and be subject to legal prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

The VA Office of Security and Law Enforcement shall conduct an appropriate background investigation on all of its employees and subcontractor employees working on this contract, and those who may require access to Government computer systems.

Clauses dealing with data requirements, rights in data, release in use restrictions, requests for information, press releases and marketing material, intellectual property, Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, and patents and copyrights apply.

12.0 Contract Administration and Performance Monitoring

Notwithstanding the Contractor's responsibility for total management during the performance of this contract, the administration of the contract will require maximum coordination between the Government and the Contractor. The COR and Program Manager will assist by monitoring contractor performance and reporting the findings to the CO. The COR will communicate at least monthly with the Lead Principal Investigator.

The COR shall be designated on the authority of the CO at the time of contract award to monitor all technical aspects of the contract. In no event is the COR empowered to change any of the terms and conditions of the contract. Changes in any section of this contract shall be made only by the Contracting Officer pursuant to a properly executed modification. The types of actions within the purview of the COR's authority are to ensure that the Contractor performs the technical requirements of the contract, and to notify both the Contractor and the Contracting Officer of any deficiencies observed. A memorandum of designation shall be issued to the COR and a copy shall be sent to the Contractor at the time of contract award setting forth in full the responsibilities and limitations of the COR.

12.1 Contracting Officer's Representative (COR):

Dorellyn Lee, Program Specialist

Office of Research and Development
Tel: 713-791-7949
Email: dorelyn.lee@va.gov

12.2 VA Principle Investigator:

Ellie Jarbrink-Sehgal, M.D

Staff gastroenterologist
Gastroenterology Section
Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

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