

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Justification for Single Source Awards IAW [FAR 13.106-1](#)
For
Over Micro-Purchase Threshold but Not Exceeding the SAT (\$250K)**

Acquisition Plan Action ID: VA260-18-AP-0789

1. Contracting Activity:

Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 20, VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS), Research and Development. IAW FAR13.104, COs must promote competition to the maximum extent practicable to obtain supplies and services from the source whose offer is the most advantageous to the Government, considering the administrative cost of the purchase. When competition is not practicable, IAW FAR13.106-1(b), COs solicit from a single source for purchases not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. This requirement will be funded by purchase request 663-18-1-8163-0203.

2. Brief Description of Supplies/ Services required and the intended use/Estimated Amount:

This requirement is to provide VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS) with annual technical research services from the University of Washington NW BioTrust under merit review. The following tasks will be performed at the NW BioTrust Laboratory:

Task	Description	Quantity
1	Process and embed mouse brain to create a brain block	500
2	Trim and cassette spinal cord	75
3	Process and embed spinal cord to create a spinal cord block	75

3. Unique characteristics that limit availability to only one source, with the reason no other supplies or services can be used:

NW Biotrust/ UWMC Anatomic Pathology uses an automated high throughput embedding process that provides a high level of paraffin embedding quality control due to their ability to run the large numbers needed to statistically show reproducible results. Differences in quality affect the results obtained for Kraemer Lab immunohistochemistry experiments. Kraemer lab also uses paraffin embedded human brain tissue from NW Biotrust/ UWMC Anatomic Pathology for these studies. They make direct comparisons of results obtained with this human tissue and tissue from our mouse models. Any differences in processing between the tissue types would confound these analyses.

The total estimated value of the proposed action is \$47,818.75 with a period of performance 9/01/2018 – 08/31/2019 and four option years.

4. Description of market research conducted and results or statement why it was not conducted:

Authority for sole source: 38 U.S.C. 8153: sole source contracts with VA’s recognized educational affiliate (University of Washington). Affiliation agreement on file with VA Education Office.

The Kraemer Laboratory needs to make direct comparisons between:

1. Kraemer Lab mouse brain and spinal cord tissue;
2. Human brain and spinal cord tissue already obtained from the UW NW BioTrust that is processed using a high throughput automated embedding process that is only available at UW NW BioTrust Anatomic Pathology Laboratory.

This Anatomic Path Lab system has unique setting and uses a special paraffin compound. Dr. Kraemer must have his mouse tissue specimens embedded using the exact same processes to make valid comparisons for his study.

Dr. Kraemer has previously attempted to reproduce the embedding process locally at VAPSHCS without success. The local results had unacceptable variability within runs, between runs and the noise level was also unacceptable, thus no comparison was possible. Given these results, Dr. Kraemer has determined that he must continue his research with the UW NW BioTrust Anatomic Path Lab.

5. Contracting Officer's Certification:

Purchase is approved in accordance with [FAR13.106-3\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)](#). I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. IAW FAR 13.106-3(a)(2)(iv) the price is determined to be fair and reasonable.

Contracting Officer Name, Title and Date