

USC Regenerative Medicine Initiative 2013, KECK School of Medicine Research Team Awards

The USC Regenerative Medicine Initiative spearheaded by Keck Provost Professor Andrew McMahon aims to harness the strength of regenerative medicine and stem cell research across USC.

To jumpstart the University initiative, Dean Puliafito of the Keck School of Medicine has put forward \$1.2 million dollars to establish seed programs to facilitate moving basic research towards clinical applications. Funding will enable multi-investigator, collaborative proposals in regenerative medicine across USC. The program will build six core areas of strength across USC: Neural and Sensory systems, Musculo-Skeletal systems, Urinary system, Respiratory and Circulatory systems, Digestive and Metabolic systems, and Cancer. Research areas may include, but are not limited to: pre/clinical trial studies, stem cell biology, tissue engineering, organ regeneration and developmental mechanisms were they clearly inform on strategies for regenerative medicine.

Successful proposals must actively engage multiple investigators. Interdisciplinary initiatives and those that bring together junior faculty in collaborative efforts are particularly encouraged. Given the seed nature of the funding, applications must be clearly goal orientated and milestone driven, and emphasize how the research program will be leveraged for sustained funding beyond the period of this initiative.

Each application must involve at least two Principle Investigators (PI) with PI rights who are members of the USC or USC affiliated faculty. Successful proposals will be awarded up to \$200,000/year for two years. Renewal for the second year will require a successful review of the first year program and approval by an Executive Committee chaired by Professor McMahon.

Application deadline:

Letters of Intent must be submitted by March 17th 2013. The Letter of Intent (two pages) should list the PIs' names, include a concise overview of the project, the AIMS, an indication of how the researchers would leverage the proposed research for sustained funding and provide details of current and historical (last 3 years only) grant support to each PI. An executive committee will review Letters of Intent and send out requests for full proposals by March 25th 2013.

The deadline for submission of a full proposal is May 6th 2013. Expert external reviewers from peer Institutions will review and provide recommendations for funding to the Executive Committee. Funding decisions are expected to enable funding in July 2013. The application guideline provides a description for the framework of the full proposal. **Faculty who fail to submit a letter of intent by March 17th 2013 will be ineligible to submit a full proposal.**

Type of Assistance

The grant provides up to \$200,000/yr in funding that is intended to support activities over a one-year period. On completion of 1st year milestones, funding is eligible for a second year of funding up to \$200,000/yr upon approval by the Executive Committee.

Acceptable uses of funds include:

- Costs of research activities and associated core support to produce data that can lead to future external funding.
- Summer or academic salaries up to \$10,000 (plus fringe benefit) for each PI.
- Salary support (plus fringe benefit) for technicians/research assistants, students and post-doctoral fellows reflecting the level of active engagement in the project.
- Travel support of up to \$3,000/year to meetings consistent with theme of research.
- A minor equipment budget of up to \$5,000/year

Student tuition, sub-contracts, and indirect costs are not permitted under this program.

Cost Sharing:

Participating schools or organized research units are encouraged to provide cost-share support through relief of normal academic duties (e.g. course-load reduction) or financial contributions in support of the effort. Cost-share is encouraged from the home schools of each PI.

Grant Conditions:

- Awardees have discretion in the budgeting and re-budgeting of funds to meet their research needs within the guidelines of the fund and the terms of the proposal. However, funds may not be transferred to another project.
- Awards will include fringe benefits but are not assessed indirect costs
- Awards are not transferable to other institutions.
- Funding will expire at the end of the funding period and remaining funds cannot be carried over.

Full Proposal Evaluation:

Full proposals will be evaluated by a group of external leaders in the field of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. In reviewing research grant requests, the referees will consider:

- a) Previous funding records for each PI and co-PI;
- b) Likelihood that the research will receive significant external funding at the end of the Regenerative Medicine Initiative period;
- c) Intrinsic significance and originality of the proposed research;
- d) The requirement for team based science to meet the goal;
- e) Interdisciplinary nature of the research;
- f) Extent of sustained collaborative activity that is fostered by the award;
- g) Prior record of principle investigators in leading collaborative interdisciplinary research projects

Notification and Terms of Award

In the event of a favorable panel recommendation, and approval by the executive committee, faculty members will be notified of the amount and conditions of the award by June, 2013; funds will be available in July, 2013. Copies of the notification of the awards will be sent to department chairs and deans.

Reporting and Acknowledgement of Support

Awardees will submit a progress report, details of expenditures and an update on external funding support by May 31st 2014. Each team will give an oral presentation to the Executive Committee June 2014. The report and presentation will form the basis for a decision of continued support for a second year. A report documenting research outcomes, publications, efforts to obtain extended funding and expenditures will be due by August 1st 2015.

Any publication or creative endeavor arising from work supported by the award should acknowledge the USC Regenerative Medicine Initiative and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Copies of publication should be submitted to Qing Liu, Ph. D. at the Eli and Edythe Broad-CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research (qliumich@med.usc.edu). Funded research will be highlighted on the USC Regenerative Medicine Initiative website: stemcell.usc.edu

Further Information and Program Contact Information

These guidelines can be downloaded from the Initiative website: https://stemcell.usc.edu/files/2013/02/RFP-for-Collaborative-Seed-Funding_Final-02082013.pdf

For additional information or inquires about the Initiative Award program, please contact:
Qing Liu, Ph. D.
Program Director
Eli and Edythe Broad-CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research
Broad CIRM Center, Room 301
Email: qliumich@med.usc.edu
Phone: 323-442-8094

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APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

All letters of intent and solicited full proposals should be submitted using our online application. To start your application you will need to log in using your USC NetID (or “username”) and password:

<http://web-app.usc.edu/web/research/>

Letters of Intent are due by **March 17th 2013**

Solicited full proposals are due by **May 6th 2013**

Important: You may experience problems with the online application if using the browser Internet Explorer. If you experience problems, it is advisable to access the application system through a different browser, such as *Mozilla Firefox* or *Google Chrome*.

For questions regarding the proposal submission process, please contact Qing Liu at the Eli and Edythe Broad-CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

FULL PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

Before preparing a proposal, applicants should read closely the program guidelines on the previous pages, including the sections on eligibility and evaluation criteria.

All proposals must be submitted using our online application (see above). Proposals may only be submitted only after receiving confirmation from the Office of Research that the proposed project fits the aims of the Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research Initiative.

Uploaded elements should be in a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman, 12 point), single-spaced, with one inch margins. The following elements are required unless otherwise noted.

1. Title of proposal, name of PIs and their academic affiliations
2. Abstract (One-half page or less.)
Describe the primary objective of the proposed research, the key components of the research design, and the significance and clinical relevance of the research.
3. Project Proposal (Up to but not exceeding 5 pages)
Include the research aims, background to projects, preliminary research from team members, a description of the research to be carried out and the expected results and milestones for measuring project progress.

4. Significance (one-half page)
How will research enhance our understanding and application of stem cell action or regenerative mechanisms? Is there additional benefit to USC from funding this program?
5. Collaboration (one-half page)
Describe the added benefit of the collaborative enterprise to meeting the aims of the research and the roles of each named investigator.
6. Sustainability (one-half page)
Indicate how meeting the aims of the research is expected to result in sustained funding beyond the project period.
7. PI Bios (one-half page)
Describe any salient features of the PI's track record, experience, funding, etc. that are useful for program evaluation.
8. Budget Form (Complete the online form)
9. Appendix: NIH biosketch for each investigator
10. Participating Faculty
Provide the names and departments of all faculty who will participate in the project, whether or not they are compensated. Provide a brief description of each faculty member's role in the project.
11. Letter of Support
A letter of support from the Dean of the participating school should acknowledge and approve the application.
12. Signatures
By submitting the proposal in Step 4 of the online application process, applicants indicate their agreement to comply with the terms and conditions of the Regenerative Medicine Initiative as well as all other applicable USC policies. The applicant's school should ensure that budgeting matches need, and resources, facilities, approval and compliance are consistent with the goals of the proposal. The Dean's approval indicates an acknowledgement and willingness to accept the research support. All overdrafts on the researchers account will be the responsibility of the PI's.

