



# OFFICE OF ACADEMIC CLINICAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover®**

## **FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

### **Request for Research Proposals**

#### **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Health matters. Health of individuals, families, and communities. Health of the environment in which we live. Health of the animals and ecosystems that surround us. We conduct research and pursue discoveries at the University of Minnesota because we want to improve health and well-being for the communities we serve. We engage in team science, knowing complex challenges require our collective skill sets and diverse ideas. The University of Minnesota Office of Academic Clinical Affairs exists to promote team science---interdisciplinary collaborations that pursue new knowledge, strengthen clinical practice, and advance patient care.

Faculty Research Development (FRD) grants, which are now open for applications, are meant to accomplish these objectives:

- Grants will be awarded through a competitive peer review process.
- FRD grants are intended to support new or expanding interdisciplinary research which addresses significant clinical issues, is innovative and has a high potential for return on investment (e.g., new NIH awards). Note that clinical issues are broad; they can range from strengthening clinical practice through the discovery and development of new tools and approaches, to responding to community health concerns and societal factors directly influencing public health and well-being.
- Applications can encompass a continuum from laboratory research to community-engaged/community-based research.

## **Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria**

- 1) All full-time paid UMN faculty at the Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor level are eligible. Faculty on phased retirement are not eligible. Individuals who hold P&A appointments (e.g., Research Associates), but hold a courtesy appointment as an Assistant Professor from their department chair are not eligible. Questions regarding faculty eligibility should be directed to Tucker W. LeBien (lebie001@umn.edu), Senior Advisor for Research Operations, Office of Academic Clinical Affairs. The OACA has final authority in determining eligibility.
- 2) Proposals are encouraged from all areas of pre-clinical, clinically-related and clinical research within the UMN. **The project must be interdisciplinary, involving two co-PIs who are each from a different UMN college or school. The program is open to faculty from the entire University.** The project can include co-investigators/collaborators, but their role should be of central importance to the conduct of the study.
- 3) **A faculty member may apply for only one FRD grant per cycle on which they are a co- PI.** There is no limit to the number of applications on which a faculty member would participate as a collaborator. Individuals who are a co-PI on an active FRD award are not eligible to apply.
- 4) The maximum award will be \$200,000 that can be applied to a one or two-year project. In general, funds should be used to support the direct costs of research in alignment with institutional and federal guidelines. Funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries, administrative assistant salaries, travel to scientific meetings, and payments or reimbursements for patient care.
- 5) **The primary criteria for funding will be eligibility, innovation, quality of the research approach, synergy of the research team, justification for the request (particularly for applications from PIs with substantial funding) and alignment with the OACA mission.**

## **Application Process**

- 1) LOI: A letter of intent (LOI), prepared by both co-PIs, must include: a) a one page letter summarizing the project and the role of the two co-PIs, and b) NIH bio-sketches for both co-PIs. **This information must be received by 4:30pm on Friday, August 27, 2021.** The LOI will be screened for eligibility, innovation, team synergy, and alignment with the OACA mission. Depending upon the number of LOIs submitted, as few as half may be invited to submit a full application. Material must be electronically submitted using the online form available at the following link: [LOI Submission Form](#).

Applicants will be notified about LOI decisions **in late September or early October 2021.**

- 2) FULL SUBMISSION: **The full application should be evaluable by a general scientific audience and avoid the use of discipline specific jargon and acronyms.** Sufficient space should be devoted to describing the unresolved questions and broad goals of the application, not just the details of specific experiments. The following must be included:
  - a. A summary of no more than 1/2 page that can be understood by a lay audience.
  - b. Research plan. This section should include background, hypothesis/specific aims, any preliminary data (not required), experimental plan, and references.
  - c. Explain how the inter-collegiate nature of the project will facilitate successful completion of the specific aims, and the strategy that will be employed to pursue external funding to sustain the project on a longer-term basis.
  - d. A detailed description of the roles of the two co-PIs on the project and the potential for synergy in the collaboration. Each of the two co-PIs will be expected to make a robust contribution to the design and conduct of the study, similar to the expectations for multi-PIs in an NIH award. In the event that the two co-PIs have a past history of collaboration (e.g., as evidenced by coauthored papers and/or jointly held grants), please explain if the current application is an extension of prior work or a new direction.

Page limit for items a-d is 5 pages, single-spaced, Ariel or Helvetica typeface, font size 11 or larger, margins at least 0.5 inches on sides, 0.8 inches on top and bottom. **Page limitation includes figures, tables and references.**

- e. Provide an NIH biosketch for the two co-PIs. Identify current and pending sources of research support for the two co-PIs, and clarify how the proposed project relates to other funded projects. For other support that appears to overlap with this FRD application please clarify how the proposals differ. **Applicants are discouraged from including a lengthy list of co-investigators. Please include only individuals who will play a prominent role on the project. For example, if the proposed study would be obtaining tissues that are collected as part of a clinical trial, it is not necessary to list as co-investigators every person enrolling patients on the clinical trial. As another example, if a standard antibody or vector is obtained from a colleague it is not necessary to include that colleague as a co-investigator.**
  - f. Include a detailed budget and justification for how the funds will be used.
  - g. If a similar or related proposal has been reviewed but not funded by an outside agency, please attach the reviews (e.g., summary statements).
- 3) A Proposal Routing Form (PRF) should be completed and signed by the department head and dean for the two co-PIs. (DO NOT ROUTE THE PROPOSAL TO SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION).
  - 4) **The deadline for receipt of full applications is Friday, November 12, 2021 at 4:30pm.** Awards will be announced late 2021 and funding will commence in 2022.
  - 5) Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file using an additional REDCap link sent in email with invitation announcement.

### **Submission Link**

[LOI: FRD LOI Submission Form](#)

*\*You may save and return to complete your submissions at any time using the code provided when the "Save and Return Later" option is selected. To return to the form re-click the link identified above. If you have any questions about this process, contact Lauren Bigalke, [bigal016@umn.edu](mailto:bigal016@umn.edu).*

### **Review Process**

The review panel will include faculty members from across the University. Recommendations from the review panel will be submitted to the Vice President for Clinical Affairs for final approval. Unedited written critiques will be sent to applicants.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The funding period is 2 years beginning in 2022, with the 2nd year of support contingent upon documented progress toward fulfillment of your specific aims during the initial year of funding. Selected senior leaders from UMN colleges and schools will review your initial year's progress in a face-to-face meeting that will be held approximately one year after award announcement. This will include a review of progress in completing the specific aims and utilization of funds. **Funds for year 2 will only be released following approval from the Vice President for Clinical Affairs.** At the completion of your project you will need to provide a final report and an accounting of all of the funds expended.

### **Questions**

Specific questions regarding the use of redcap and the application process can be sent to Lauren Bigalke ([bigal016@umn.edu](mailto:bigal016@umn.edu)). Broader questions about program purpose should be addressed to Tucker W. LeBien ([lebie001@umn.edu](mailto:lebie001@umn.edu)), Senior Advisor for Research Operations, Office of Academic Clinical Affairs.