

UMMS-WPI Collaborative Seed Funding: Generating Data for External Funding

The University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) are committed to building bridges between our faculty and students through partnerships on many fronts. This initiative will support seed funding for innovative research ideas that will fuel specific grant applications to federal and non-federal sources.

Goal: To foster cross campus interdisciplinary research that will ignite long-term sustainable collaborations and new extra-mural funding possibilities.

UMMS and WPI are pleased to announce funding for seed grants up to \$25,000 each. The initiative seeks to establish partnerships between our institutions which will promote pioneering scientific discoveries and develop innovative technologies, with a long-term view of diversifying our combined research funding portfolio, expanding student training and enhancing the impact of our discoveries.

Collaborative teams, including one or more outstanding investigators from each institution, will leverage the combined strengths, expertise and facilities of each institution in order to address novel research questions. Projects with scientists from more than one discipline, including but not limited to the life sciences, medicine, the physical sciences, engineering, mathematics, informatics, and computer science, for example, will receive the highest priority in terms of funding.

We expect to fund four to six one-year projects at up to \$25,000 per project, beginning July 2015 following a 2-stage application process. Applicants are required to submit Letters of Intent (LOI) from which a group will be selected to submit full proposals.

This initiative will be coordinated by Jean King PhD, Associate Provost for Biomedical Science Research, UMMS, and Bogdan Vernescu, PhD, Vice Provost for Research, ad interim, at WPI.

For more information, please contact:

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LOI Instructions

Describe in one page or less the work that motivates you to apply. Do not attempt to document key findings at the LOI stage. The next phase of the process requires a full proposal. The Letter of Intent review process seeks to make two determinations:

1. That the project meets the objectives of bringing together outstanding investigators from both institutions to address an important research topic.
2. That the availability of this seed funding will allow collection of data that will be used as pilot data for extra-mural funding.

LOIs must describe novel research that involves a substantial collaboration between one or more faculty from each institution.

**Letters of Intent (LOI) are due April 8, 2015 and should be submitted to research.funding@umassmed.edu with the following description in the subject line:
Submission: UMMS-WPI Collaborative Seed Funding LOI**

LOI will be peer-reviewed. This review will identify the most promising projects for full proposal submission. All applicants will be notified of the decision by **April 20, 2015**.

Those invited to submit full proposals will be required to submit them by **May 20, 2015**.

Proposal Guidelines

1. Invited applicants will submit a 3 pages (maximum, including references) proposal that:
 - Describes specific aims, goals and significance
 - Specifically identifies potential extramural funding sources relevant to the proposed work
 - Include a brief description of the campus' facilities to be used

In addition applicants are required to submit the following items:

- NIH Biographical Sketches for the collaborating PIs
- Project Budget

Biosketches and the project budget do not count towards the 3 page limit.

2. **Maximum funding level:** \$25,000 direct costs for a one-year maximum.
3. **Allowable costs:** Please note that this funding is not intended to support faculty effort. Allowable costs that can be requested include Post Doc and Technician effort, Graduate Student stipends, materials and supplies, core facility charges, and in exceptional cases, small pieces of equipment.
4. **Collaborative research proposal to an external agency:** Funded investigators will produce a fundable research proposal within one year of receiving these funds as one of the project deliverables.

We expect to announce funded proposals by **mid-June 2015**.