



**The University of Maryland
Research and Innovation Seed Grant Program
Request for Proposals
Deadline: March 26, 2017**

OVERVIEW

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) campuses are pleased to co-host the joint **Research and Innovation Seed Grant Program** for 2017. The intent of this initiative is to promote structured collaboration between UMCP and UMB and to advance the institutions' joint goals in research and innovation.

Since 2008 the UM Research and Innovation Seed Grant Program has:

- Fostered creative teams of investigators working across disciplinary boundaries and campuses;
- Supported new research foci and basic science tracks to pursue future health care improvements and/or technologies; and
- Stimulated submission and funding of innovative basic and translational science research proposals to federal, public or private funding agencies.

DETAIL

Overall, the partnership seeks to encourage groups of faculty members from both institutions to collaborate on **new** avenues of research that would not otherwise be explored by any single group or to boost an existing collaboration toward a major proposal submission. All areas of research at UMB and UMCP will be considered for funding. Projects should further the strategic collaborative interests between the two institutions and provide a clear path toward subsequent major external funding.

All research areas are eligible for funding. The research project must be original, creative, innovative, and be beyond the scope of a typical single research group. The research is expected to be from a project that is currently not funded by another mechanism, and is expected to lead to new external funding.

TRACKS

This Request for Proposals provides two funding track opportunities: Innovation Seed Track and Challenge Seed Track. Faculty eligibility criteria (seniority level and current funding level) and school participation in each track has been set by each school individually and are indicated below.

Innovation Seed Track aims to stimulate innovative and collaborative ideas between faculty members at the two campuses, with a goal of preparing a joint research proposal to federal or private institutions.

- These awards will be for up to **\$50,000 per year for 1 or 2 years**.
- PIs must submit a proposal related to the seed funding to a major federal funding

agency by the end of the first year of funding.

Eligibility – Seed Track

For UMCP:

- All tenure track and professional faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor, Assistant Research Scientist or higher, whose full-time, home position is at UMCP, are eligible to apply. Visiting, Adjunct, and Affiliate faculty are not eligible to apply.

For All UMB Schools (SOD, SON, SOP, SSW) Except the SOM:

- PIs must be full-time, tenured, or tenure-track faculty members having primary academic appointments at UMB.

****PLEASE NOTE: Specific to the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM):**

- SOM PIs must be NIH-funded investigators and tenured or tenure track Associate or Full Professors.
- PIs must commit to submitting a major multi-investigator NIH application for a P-series, U-Series or equivalent award by the end of the first year of funding.
- The second year of funding is contingent upon an aforementioned NIH grant submission by the end of the first year.

Innovation Challenge Track aims to allow teams representing both campuses to further develop collaborative activities that will lead to **major, highly visible** research proposals to federal or private institutions.

- These challenge track awards will be for up to **\$75,000 per year for 2 years**.
- Priority will be given to projects that will generate pilot data over a two-year period for new and ambitious research projects that will be **strategically positioned to acquire a large federal funding base, such as NIH program project grants or center grants (P-series awards), cooperative agreements (U01 awards)**, or equivalent large awards from other federal agencies (NSF, DoD) or private institutions.

Eligibility – Challenge Track

For UMCP:

- All tenure track and professional faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor, Assistant Research Scientist or higher, whose full-time, home position is at UMCP, are eligible to apply. Visiting, Adjunct, and Affiliate faculty are not eligible to apply.

For All UMB Schools (SOD, SON, SOP, SSW) Except the SOM:

- At least one lead-PI must be a senior investigator that currently has federal funding, and is a tenured Associate or Full Professor.

****PLEASE NOTE: Specific to the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM):**

- SOM PIs must be NIH-funded investigators and tenured or tenure track Associate or Full Professors.
- PIs must commit to submitting a major multi-investigator NIH application for a P-series, U-series, or equivalent award by the end of the first year of funding.
- The second year of funding is contingent upon an aforementioned NIH grant submission by the end of the first year.

AWARDS (both tracks)

The number of awards will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received, as well as their proposed budgets. The program will have significant financial support from many sources.

Individual investigators may submit multiple proposals but can participate as a PI on only one awarded proposal. The top-ranked proposals, after peer review, will be recommended for funding. Investigators can serve as collaborators on an unlimited number of proposals. Past awardees remain eligible for this year's competition.

If you have questions regarding application guidelines, please contact UMCP: Tara Burke, tburke13@umd.edu or UMB/SOM: Maggi Smith, msmith@som.umaryland.edu.

PROJECTS

Criteria: All relevant scientific areas are eligible.

Eligibility: This overall award program seeks to encourage groups of researchers (minimum of two faculty PIs) to collaborate on new avenues of research that would not otherwise be explored by any one group alone. It is expected that the program will support cross-campus teams.

Eligibility requirements are different for UMB, UMSOM, and UMCP per each seed track. Please refer to the information provided on page 2 for full details.

****PLEASE NOTE: Specific to the UMB School of Medicine (SOM) for BOTH tracks:**

- SOM PIs must be NIH-funded investigators and tenured or tenure track Associate or Full Professors.
- PIs must commit to submitting a major multi-investigator NIH application for a P-series, U-series, or equivalent award by the end of the first year of funding.
- The second year of funding is contingent upon an aforementioned NIH grant submission by the end of the first year.

Expectations: Award recipients are expected to produce sufficient preliminary results so that a proposal for external funding may be submitted within 12 months after the first year of funding. Such a proposal is mandatory (both tracks). In addition, it is expected that publication(s) or manuscript(s) will result from the funded work. Awardees will participate in annual Progress Reviews(s) or other events that bridge campuses and bring researchers together. Recipients will remain faculty members of the participating school throughout the course of the grant, with any substitutions requiring approval in advance.

Review: Proposals will be evaluated by a committee that may include faculty from UMB and

UMCP campuses, and representatives from other agencies, including public, private and federal, with wide-ranging expertise appropriate to the types of proposals submitted. Anonymized comments will be returned. Proposals will be reviewed for: 1) how well the project meets the goals of the identified Track, including the composition of the team of investigators; 2) meeting criteria (e.g., relevance to future public health concerns, significance, innovation, approach and qualification of investigative team/environment to carry out the aims); and 3) likelihood of attracting outside funding in the future.

Allowable Expenses: Research supplies; purchase or rental of equipment for new research; travel for research purposes (excluding travel to meetings or symposia); matching funds for research items; and salary support for a temporary position (1 year or less) for technicians, research associates (post-docs) and/or graduate students.

Expenses Not Allowed: Salaries for PIs are not allowed. UMB allows for a waiver process – which must be granted prior to submission by the Dean of the School and Bruce Jarrell. The UMB School of Social Work has already been granted a waiver for the inclusion of PI salary. Other expenses such as secretarial support, general telephone services and postage, alterations or renovations of laboratory space, purchase of laboratory or office furniture, purchase of periodicals and books, and dues and memberships in scientific societies are not allowed.

Conditions of the Award:

1. Awards are made to PIs and are not transferable without prior approval by the Chief Academic & Research Officer, UMB and Vice President for Research, UMCP.
2. Equipment purchased with these funds is the property of UMB and UMCP and must remain should the PI leave his/her University.
3. Annual progress report and a final report (after 3 years) will be prepared. All reports will request an update listing all presentations, published papers, extramural funds, patents, inventions, or creation of new companies, and technology for commercialization that have resulted, in whole or in part, from the project. These should be sent to the Chief Academic & Research Officer, UMB and Vice President for Research, UMCP upon request.
4. Funds should be budgeted for completion and exhausted at the end of the award period. Remaining or unspent funds are to be returned for subsequent competitions.

Other: The proposal should also identify specific research goals that will enhance the success of a full proposal, as well as provide a specific targeted timeline by which these objectives can be reasonably achieved. Finally, the proposal should provide a budget that adequately reflects the intended use of the funds with respect to the proposed objectives for each institutional component.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Your proposal must contain the items outlined below, under the page limitations provided. Proposals failing to meet these guidelines will not be considered for funding. Guidelines and forms may be found at: <https://umd.infoready4.com/> for the UMB-UMCP 2017 Seed Grant Competition. Anticipated funding start date will be July 1, 2017.

Cover Page (limited to 1 page):

1. **Track: Innovation Seed or Innovation Challenge; overall \$ request**
2. **Title of Project**
3. **Names of all Co-PIs** - Specify appointments and home departments; for UMB, any exceptions to the eligibility requirements must be approved by the Dean of the participating school prior to submission of a proposal, and reviewed by the VPR, UMCP and Chief Academic & Research Officer, UMB.
4. **Statement of Collaborative Effort** – For basic and translational research proposals, a specific statement as to how the collaboration between the investigators from each campus is necessary to move this research proposal forward, is requested. This should include processes for maintaining communication and interactions between campuses, and monitoring of equitable distribution of intellectual involvement.

Proposed Research (maximum 5 single-spaced pages) including:

1. **Specific Aims** - Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans, as appropriate.
2. **Project Description** - (including Project Plan, expected outcomes) include two or three sentences describing the public health relevance of the project and commercial benefit (where applicable).
3. Please comment on how this interaction will impact the research program's future direction and the following:

Significance: 1) Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses; 2) explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields; and 3) describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

Innovation: 1) Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms; 2) describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s); and 3) explain any refinements, improvements or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.

Budget (limited to 1 page):

1. **Total** amount of Funds being requested; individual and detailed budgets for each campus.
2. **Identified Future Funding Source** - be explicit; Detail which program in which agency will be targeted for a future application. Please note that for the Innovation Challenge Track, the targeted award must be **of a large magnitude, on the order of NIH program project grants or center grants (P-series awards), cooperative agreements (U01**

awards), or equivalent large awards from other federal agencies (NSF, DoD) or private institutions.

3. **Additional Information** - Biosketches – NIH format (all faculty); References (including full titles).

Submission:

*Proposals must be submitted to the new online workflow site, InfoReady Seed Grant and Limited Submission Portal, <https://umd.infoready4.com/> for the UMB-UMCP 2017 Seed Grant Competition prior to **11:59 pm EST on March 26, 2017.***