College of Medicine Project Planning Grants

**Deadlines:**
- Full application: Midnight, April 11, 2014
- Notification of award: on or about April 25, 2014
- Funds available: May 1, 2014 (to be spent by December 31, 2014)

**Questions and information:** For questions regarding these instructions, please contact Pete Koch by e-mailing peter.koch@uc.edu or by telephone at (513) 558-2338.

**Background/Funding Pool:** The College of Medicine is committed to supporting the building of interdisciplinary research programs, many of which result in complex grant submissions. Large scale grants, including training grants, program project grants, and research contracts involving many collaborators or sites, can require significant planning and effort to be competitive. The collection of extensive preliminary data and supporting documentation for a competitive proposal can consume many months. To help support the development of high quality proposals, the University of Cincinnati VP for Research and the Dean of the College of Medicine propose to award planning grants of up to $25,000 to support the planning and preparation of new large-scale interdisciplinary or multi-investigator grants.

This program will support projects that will lead directly to the submission of a new (not renewal) large-scale or multi-investigator grant. A proposal will be responsive to this RFA if it involves at least one of the following:

1. multiple projects spanning several domains of research (e.g., program project grant, NIH U or P series grants)
2. training multiple basic, clinical or translational scientists (e.g., T32, K12)
3. collaboration across colleges or institutions (e.g., multi-PI R01)

**Priorities:** Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate a clear scientific benefit for the academic health center, that present a timeline and strategy for preparing the final proposal, and that identify milestones and deliverables that will ensure a quality submission. Priority will be given to projects that are likely to lead to a competitive grant submission that would provide synergy among strong CoM research programs.

**Collaborations:** Competitive applications will involve collaborations across disciplines and research domains. This can be evidenced by collaboration between basic scientists and clinical researchers, by engaging an interprofessional research team, by including investigators across multiple departments, or by engaging multiple institutions.

**Eligibility:** In order to be eligible for funds, the corresponding principal investigator must hold a primary faculty appointment in the College of Medicine and submit any resulting applications through the College of Medicine’s Office of Finance and Administration. Collaborations with investigators from other UC colleges, CCHMC, or the VAMC are strongly encouraged.
Allowable expenses: Funds may be spent on any aspect of developing the grant application with the exception of faculty salaries. Examples of allowable expenses include:

i) development of pilot data directly supporting the program of work
ii) staff support to collate biosketches, training tables and background data for training grants
iii) business consultation to develop a sustainability plan
iv) statistical effort to support the design of a large adaptive clinical trial
v) bioinformatics effort to validate approach
vi) meeting and travel costs when the meeting is directly related to preparing the application
vii) grant writing and graphical design

The budget justification must clearly describe how the funding will be used to directly support the grant submission.

Review process: Applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

i) investigators, including collaboration
ii) strategy to develop the final application
iii) likelihood of meeting proposed timelines
iv) likely competitiveness of final application
v) contribution of this area of research to academic and research missions at the CoM, UC Health, and academic health center.

The Research Cabinet will make funding decisions. Budgets may be amended to maximize availability of support to meritorious applications. Applicants may be asked to meet with the Research Cabinet.

Applications: A complete application includes the following:

1. Face page that includes the RFA number; deadline for the application; title of the application; the PI and all investigators (key personnel) and their roles on the application (1 page)
2. Budget and Budget justification including a summary of what the funding is being sought for, current stage of the project, and any existing or committed resources already in place (1 page total)
3. Proposal, with the following sections (do not exceed 2 pages total)
   a. Responsiveness of the final proposal to the request for applications or program announcement—(why this will be a competitive application).
   b. A brief description of the scope and proposed research strategy and its relevance to the academic health center
   c. Milestones and timeline for preparing the final proposal including work items to be completed towards submission of a competitive proposal
4. Biosketches (PI and key collaborators)
5. A copy of the request for applications or program announcement for which the final proposal is being prepared. This should be attached as an appendix.

Full applications must be received no later than midnight on April 11, 2014. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.