

Request for Applications (RFA) for Proof of Concept Grants supporting critical steps for advancing Translational Research 2019

Sponsored by
The Entrepreneurial Proof-of-concept and Innovation Center (EPIC) &
the Center for Molecular and Translational Medicine
Application Deadline March 1st 2019 (note: funds must be spent by June 1st 2019)

The Center for Molecular and Translational Medicine (molmed.ucr.edu), supported by the School of Medicine and by the Entrepreneurial Proof-of-concept and Innovation Center (EPIC) (<http://www.ucduotp.net/epic>) at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), is an initiative aimed at catalyzing translational life-science research on campus to improve the health of individuals by translating basic findings into future innovative diagnostic or therapeutics.

To incentivize and advance these activities, funding for feasibility studies is available (**up to \$5,000 total**) by a *trans-fund*, intended to support critical and well defined activities to advance early stage translational projects. The requested funds must be spent by June 1st of 2019.

It is expected that successful awardees will use the data generated by the grant to submit publications, translational grant proposals, and patent applications as appropriate. Selected *trans-fund* awardees are expected to participate in the annual symposium in 2019, and/or to present their research at the annual symposium in 2020 and/or at one of the Colloquia in Translational Medicine lunch meetings.

Proposals will be evaluated for significance to human health, impact and innovation, and translational potential. Applicants that can demonstrate the potential of their proposal to secure additional funds for further translational studies will be given higher priority. Many of these activities can be performed in the PI's laboratory or at academic or industrial *fee per service* core facilities. These include the UCSD Drug Discovery Core Facility <http://cddi.ucsd.edu/resources/>, the UCLA HTS screening facility <http://www.mssr.ucla.edu/>, the Sanford Burnham functional Genomics Facility <https://www.sbpdiscovery.org/medical-discovery/shared-resources/functional-genomics>, for example.

Typical activities for projects supported by the *trans-fund* in this RFA can include, but are not limited to:

- Scale up synthesis of one or more active agent
- Limited SAR studies
- *In vitro* ADME studies (aqueous and plasma stability, microsomal stability, toxicity) and PK studies (for these activities, PIs may consider the UCSD core facility)
- Selectivity studies (panel of related targets, in house or by CROs)
- Gene expression studies
- Binding studies using biophysical approaches
- Acquisition of critical reagents (reference drugs or antibodies, cell lines, etc.).
- Acquisition of a compound library for pilot screening
- Perform a pilot HTS screen in house or for example at the UCLA facility
- Perform pilot loss-of-function screening via RNAi and/or CRISPR-CAS9 or obtain small libraries of siRNA(s) for a given target (PIs may consider using the Sanford Burnham functional genomics core facility)
- Protein expression for biophysical/biochemical studies
- Structural biology studies (expression of labeled protein for NMR, crystallization studies, etc.)

Review Process: Applications (format and content described below) are due as a single PDF by **March 1st, 2019** (funds must be spent by June 1st, 2019). The applications will be ranked by selected members of MolMed executive committee and external advisors and awards will be announced by March 15th. The number of awards will depend on availability of funds and the number responsive of applications.

Eligibility: A PI must be a tenure-track faculty member at UC Riverside and may submit no more than one application. Membership in the Center for Molecular and Translational Medicine is not mandatory for this RFA, but awardees who are not members are expected to actively support and participate in the activities and the mission of the center (see molmed.ucr.edu).

Application requirements and limitations: In order to establish consistency and fairness, all proposals must be prepared using no less than single spacing and 11-point Arial font with 0.5 inches margins and contain (only) the following elements:

1. A **title page** with the title of the proposal, and name(s) of the PI(s) with their affiliation(s) (applicants must be tenure-track faculty at UCR), their contact information, and a **brief budget justification (up to \$5000 total)** with a succinct description of the proposed task and its anticipated cost. Note that funds need to be spent within June 1st, 2019.
2. A **non-confidential 1 page proposal** that succinctly describes the background, current studies, proposed research and its translational nature. Emphasize the long-term impact of the proposed task to advance the translational potential of the studies. Within the same page, the applicant(s) are asked to briefly indicate whether an invention disclosure or a patent application (provisional, pending, or issued) has been filed with UCR office of Technology Commercialization by indicating the title of the application and its current status.
3. Any references cited in the 1 page proposal can be listed in a second page.
4. An short **NIH or NSF style biographical sketch** limited to 2 pages for each PI including current support.
5. Please **do not** include appendix material such as a detailed budget, additional tables, figures, movies, reprints, or preprints.

Review Criteria: In support of the goal of this initiative, reviewers will focus on the strengths and weakness of each proposal in these areas:

1. Significance to human health.
2. Impact and innovation.
3. Feasibility of proposed work.
4. Timeline for completion
5. Potential practical impact of the research for the future development of therapeutics or diagnostics.
6. Potential for the pilot project to launch applications for further funding from extramural sources such as biotech or pharma companies, private investors, foundations, or the National Institutes for Health.

Please submit the application following the criteria listed above as a single pdf attachment at

<https://cgni.wufoo.com/forms/molmed-2019-transfund-application-submission/> or

<https://molmed.ucr.edu/funding-opportunities>

For additional information, questions, or concerns please reach out via email to Pica Preston @

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