



Office of the Vice President for Research Administration

2017 Temple University Research Targeted, Bridge, and Seed Awards Program

March 10, 2017

Targeted Funding Program

Proposals are invited for internal funding to support multidisciplinary projects that demonstrate potential to expand on existing strengths or develop new innovative research related to strategic areas of emphasis for Temple University. This year, the targeted funding program will support a university wide **Brain Research Initiative**.

The aim of this initiative is to enhance Temple University's competitiveness to leverage funding related to the brain from federal funding agencies with a specific focus on the National Institutes for Health, National Science Foundation and Department of Defense divisions. This initiative will prioritize funding for interdisciplinary and/or multi-college efforts that have the potential to advance the university's contribution to the understanding of the human brain. The specific foci that are encouraged for this call for proposals are: cognition; learning and the brain; neuroscience; mapping brain activity and modeling the brain; neurotechnologies; health conditions of Alzheimer's, stroke, multiple sclerosis, depression and psychiatric disorders, traumatic brain injury and other brain disorders and conditions; and ethics associated with brain research. Other topics that have the potential to leverage significant external research funding are also welcome.

Criteria that will be used to identify projects for funding include:

- Scholarly merit and quality of the overall study design
- Proven research track record of the investigators related to this topic
- Feasibility of the project to deliver outcomes within the timeline projected
- Quality of the strategy proposed to seek research funding, including its alignment to the outcomes anticipated from the funding provided
- Appropriateness of budget to the support the scale and timeline of the project
- A well developed strategy for the protection of intellectual property (IP) derived from this work and the pursuit of a commercialization strategy related to the anticipated IP
- Availability of facilities and infrastructure available to conduct the research

This program will fund three categories of work. Investigators may compete for one category of funding.

1. Plus-up funding for existing interdisciplinary projects. For teams that are already working on brain research related to the topics noted above, limited funds are available to increase the level of support for ongoing research. In order to qualify for plus up funds, the investigators must have a current **federal grant** from NSF, NIH or a DOD agency, provide a written description of how the requested funds will enhance the ability to complete and enhance the currently funded grant or program, and a well defined strategy for seeking new funding through the additional activities that will be carried out. Program requests for plus up funds are capped at \$50,000/year for up to two years. Matching funds from schools and colleges are not required.

2. Exploratory research in new, interdisciplinary topics. Requests for funding are sought for newly developed teams of investigators interested in the pursuit of higher risk studies that have the potential to result in novel and transformative outcomes which can secure external funding. This program is appropriate for new research topics, novel use of research technologies or infrastructure to advance new approaches and methods for research, and projects that support young investigators to establish a track record of research in this area. **This program requires matching support, including the use of start up or research incentive funds controlled by the investigator; department or college matching support including the investment in facilities or equipment needed to conduct the research, buyout from teaching, summer support, or direct dollar matching funds.** The maximum funding for this program is \$100,000 per year for up to two years, inclusive of the matching support provided by the investigator, school or college.

3. Small grants program. Investigator teams seeking to conduct analysis of data sets that can advance understanding of the processes and mechanisms in alignment with the theme of this brain initiative as outlined above may seek support for applied research that has the potential to generate publications and/or preliminary data and outcomes that can enhance the ability to compete for funding OR advance the ability to advance a technology through the commercialization program at Temple. Funds for this program are limited to \$10,000 per study. Matching is not required.

Proposal Format Guidelines

The following sections are required:

- **Project cover page**
 - Include names of the methods and the domain expertise of co-investigators; their affiliations including email address and phone number
 - Sum of requested funds
 - Approval signature of dean or the Associate Dean for Research if designated by the dean
- **One page Executive Summary**
- **Project description (no more than 4 pages)**
 - Aims, research question, and methods
 - Project timeline and milestones
 - Anticipated outcomes
 - Statement of broader significance of the work and plans for leveraging additional funding
- **Project Personnel**
 - Identification of proposed members of the research team and their roles related to the proposed project (e.g., project director, research assistant, staff scientist, faculty)
 - Estimated level of effort (in hours) anticipated for each member.
 - BioSketch or CV for the proposed principal investigator(s) and other key members of the research team; most current NSF or NIH biosketch can be used; CV can be used for investigators who do not have an NSF or NIH biosketch.
- **Budget**
 - Budgets should itemize all costs anticipated for this project. Eligible costs are: wages for students; graduate student tuition; supplies needed for the study; travel to conferences; and small equipment. Budgets should not include support for investigators with current

grant funding. 9 month faculty who do not have current grant funding may request \$5000 (max) for summer support plus fringe.

- Budgets do not need to include F and A costs.
- A budget description is required for each requested item.
- Application format note: Please use Times New Roman typeface and text size of 11 points, and 1 inch margins for the proposal.

- **Project Start Date and Timeline**

- The project start date is **July 1, 2017**. All projects can be implemented over a two-year period, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019.

Notification of intent to apply for this program is requested on or before March 17, 2017. An email notification should include: Specific program to which you will apply; the names, affiliations, and titles of investigators to be involved in the study; and a one-paragraph overview of the specific focus of the work the team will complete. Please direct notifications to Rosemary Dillon at dillon@temple.edu and cc to ovpr@temple.edu.

Proposals are due in full on or before Friday, March 31, 2017 at 5 PM.

Grant recipients will be notified on or before April 30, 2017.

Please direct all inquiries and all targeted fund application materials in PDF format as an email to:

Rosemary C. Dillon
Director, Special Projects - OVPR
215-204-7551; dillon@temple.edu
Please cc all materials to ovpr@temple.edu

Bridge Funding Program

Bridge funding provides financial support for existing research programs for which external funding sources are expended. The funding needs to support the continuation of the operations of a lab or program in order to avoid ending the program while external support is being reviewed or pursued. Bridge funding must be used in a strategic and coordinated way to maintain project/lab momentum while assuring effective use of limited resources. The program funds may be used to retain key personnel, the performance of limited laboratory or other research activity to permit the accumulation of new data essential to renew a source of external funding, or to prevent major disruptions in the continuation of research activities that would negatively impact the ability to secure continuation funding from external sponsors. It is expected that all discretionary monies available to an investigator will be expended before using funding provided through this program.

Overview

- Between six and eight one-year bridge fund awards of up to \$25,000 will be available each year, as matching support for equivalent funds being provided by the requesting Dean.
- The target dates for submitting a bridge request for the FY 2017 cycle is on or before **May 31, 2017**. Requests must have the approval of the investigator's Chair and Dean.
- Approved bridge funding will cease upon either the start date of the external award or notification that the final round of funding requests was not awarded.

Application/Review Process

- Each academic unit is responsible for developing its own process for considering bridge-funding requests internally before submitting proposals through the Dean to the Vice President for Research.
- Bridge funding is intended to extend externally funded research projects only. Requests for pilot studies or other unfunded research will not be considered.
- Proposals for bridge funding should be no longer than five pages. Proposals need to include a statement of plans to request funding from external sponsors. Prior proposals submitted, along with reviewer comments should be provided when possible with the submission.
- This program will support only projects with a high likelihood of continued funding by the sponsor. Bridge funds will not support projects that have either received a poor score from a funding agency or have reached the limit of amendments permitted by an agency without being funded.

Please direct all inquiries and all bridge fund application materials in PDF format as an email to:

Rosemary C. Dillon
Director, Special Projects - OVPR
215-204-7551; dillon@temple.edu
Please cc all materials to ovpr@temple.edu

Seed Funding Program

Seed funding affords an opportunity for special projects with the aim of fostering the engagement of multidisciplinary teams to establish linkages towards attaining external funding. This program is open to all disciplines, with prioritization given to projects that have the potential to position the researcher or research team to be competitive for external funding or to bring high impact to Temple University through the proposed work.

Overview

- Up to six seed awards between \$5000 and \$25,000 will be available each year.
- **Requests may be submitted throughout the year.**
- Projects eligible for support include: research exchanges, campus-wide symposia and special events of interest to researchers at Temple university, and pilot projects with the strong potential to position the investigator(s) to be competitive for external funding.
- Seed funding is not available to support faculty salaries, conference travel, or research travel.
- Each academic unit is responsible for developing its own process for considering seed funding requests internally before submission through the Dean to the Vice President for Research.

Please direct all inquiries and all seed fund application materials in PDF format as an email to:

Rosemary C. Dillon
Director, Special Projects - OVPR
215-204-7551; dillon@temple.edu
Please cc all materials to ovpr@temple.edu