

Keck School of Medicine of USC Bridge Funding Program *Fiscal Year 2017*

The Office of the Dean would like to collaborate with KSOM departments and institutes to provide bridge funding to productive PIs who have lost their extramural funding, but remain potentially competitive. This funding will provide PIs with the opportunity to conduct research that will lead to new extramural grant support. The eligibility requirements, terms, and application process are outlined below:

Eligibility Requirements (all required)

- Full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the KSOM
- At least three years of continuous peer-reviewed extramural funding at USC prior to current funding gap
- No more than a two-year current gap in extramural funding

Terms of Award

- Duration: up to one year, renewable with appropriate progress and justification
- Amount: up to \$45,000 awarded from the Office of the Dean, based on justified budget requests
- Cost Share: Matching funds are expected from the PI's home department(s) and/or institute(s)
- Use of Funds (applies to funds from the Office of the Dean and to departmental/institute funds that count toward match):
 - *Acceptable use*: supplies; animal care; clinical study costs; salaries for staff, students, and post-docs; or travel to field sites for data collection
 - *Unacceptable use*: PI salaries, previous budget overdrafts, equipment, nor travel to meetings
- Unspent Funds:
 - Funds awarded from the Office of the Dean that remain unspent on the start date of a new extramural research award must be returned.
 - In the absence of a new extramural award and unless an extension is requested and granted, funds awarded from the Office of the Dean that remain unspent one year from the start date of a bridge award must be returned.
- Prior Bridge Funding: Previous receipt of bridge funds for unrelated research will not disqualify PIs from this program. However, priority will be given to individuals who have not received



bridge funding in the previous five years.

How to Apply

Applications should come from the Department Chairs and/or Institute Director who will support the bridge funding. S/he or they should submit the following to the Vice Dean for Research, KSOM (via Janet Stoeckert - stoecker@med.usc.edu):

- A two-page description of (a) current status of research, including weaknesses that could be remedied by bridge funding, (b) research to be supported by bridge funds, in particular to correct such weaknesses, and (c) plans and timeline(s) for application for new extramural funding using results obtained with bridge funding. *Please note that applications that do not address these issues, including applications that simply request general lab support without specific justification, will be returned to the applicant for revision.*
- Budget and justification, including amount of cost-share from department(s) and/or institute(s)
- Most recent scientific peer-reviews of the research, if available
- List of papers recently published, in press or in preparation
- NIH biosketch
- Letter from the PI's home department chair or institute director committing to the cost-matching

Applications will be considered incomplete and, therefore, not reviewed until all materials are submitted.

Review and Award

Requests for bridge funding will be reviewed by the Vice Dean for Research and senior members of the Dean's leadership team with relevant scientific expertise. They will work with the relevant department chair(s)/institute director(s) on final funding decisions and plans for monitoring progress.