

Keck School of Medicine of USC
Dean's Pilot Funding Program
Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The Office of the Dean would like to collaborate with KSOM departments and institutes to provide faculty members with funding for initial exploration of new research areas. Priority will be to obtain feasibility data that will lead to submission of new NIH R-series or other major research proposals. The primary target audiences include junior investigators starting a research program and established investigators moving to a new area of research that is clearly distinct from prior research. The eligibility requirements, terms, and application process are outlined below:

Eligibility Requirements (all required)

- Full-time KSOM or CHLA faculty member as of July 1, 2017
- Single or multiple PIs
- Co-Is from other USC schools will be allowed, but all funds will be disbursed directly through KSOM rather than through satellite accounts to other schools or purchase orders to CHLA if an award is issued.

Terms of Award

- Up to \$37,500 for one year composed of a 2:1 ratio of funds from the Dean's office and investigators' home department(s). For example, the maximum award would be \$25,000 from the Dean and \$12,500 from the home department(s) of the participating investigator(s).
- Applications must include a letter of commitment specifying the amount and source(s) of the cost share.
- Applications from multiple departments can derive the cost share from any combination of participating departments; it is up to the investigators to secure the matching funds.
- A no-cost extension of up to one additional year may be granted upon review of a written request to the Dean of the Keck School
- The Keck School anticipates making up to ten awards in FY18, utilizing funds from the Christiansen Estate Endowed Fund and additional funds from the Keck School Dean for the School's contribution to awards.



How to Apply

- Submit Letter of Intent:
 - Due no later than 5 p.m. (PDT) on September 1, 2017
 - The letter of intent is optional, but will aid in securing the appropriate expertise on the review panel.
 - Submit your letter by clicking [here](#).
- Submit Proposal:
 - Due by 5 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, September 29, 2017.
 - The full application will include the following:
 - cover page;
 - ½-page abstract;
 - focused (< 3 pages) research plan;
 - <1-page bibliography;
 - biosketches of all investigators;
 - cost share letter signed by chair(s) and or director(s) of departments or institutes committing to the cost share;
 - budget and budget justification.
 - Grant submission portal will open August 1.
 - Submit your letter of intent and full proposal via the following portal, which will be activated on August 1, 2017, by clicking [here](#).

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

Review and Award

Applications will be peer-reviewed internally at USC using the following review criteria:

- Innovation of the research and novelty of the area of research to the PI(s)
- Feasibility of the primary hypothesis and/or importance of the stated purpose of the research
- Approach: Quality and appropriateness of the study design, methodology, data acquisition and analysis
- Investigators: Qualifications to conduct the proposed research
- Resources and Environment: Quality and availability of resources needed to conduct the research
- Potential to lead to extramural funding, focusing on three areas:
 1. specific justification regarding the nature of the data to be collected and how it will be used to strengthen one or more follow-on grant applications;
 2. milestones for collection of the data and timeline for submission of extramural application(s)
 3. specific funding mechanisms or opportunities that would be targeted for extramural funding applications

University of Southern California

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Recommendations for funding will be made by a committee appointed by the Dean of the Keck School, final approval will be done by the Dean.

FY18 Review Timeline

- Letter of intent (optional): 5 p.m. (PDT) September 1, 2017
- Application Deadline: 5 p.m. PDT on September 29, 2017
- Final Selection of Awardees: October 20, 2017
- Funding Initiation: November 1, 2017
- Progress Report due December 1, 2018 (unless no cost extension approved prior to this date)



Call for Applications!

Deadlines

September 1 – Letter of Intent

September 29- Application Due

October 20 – Final Selection

November 1 – Funding Initiated

December 1, 2018 – Progress Report Due

Target Audience

Junior investigators starting a research program

Established investigators moving to a new area of research that is clearly distinct from prior research

Eligibility

- Full-time faculty member of the KSOM as of July 1, 2017, including faculty members at CHLA.
- Single or multiple PIs will be considered
- Co-Is from other USC schools will be allowed, but all funds will be disbursed directly through KSOM rather than through satellite accounts to other schools

PURPOSE

To provide funding for initial exploration of new research areas by KSOM faculty members. Priority will be to obtain feasibility data that will clearly lead to submission of new NIH R-series or other major research proposals.

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER OF INTENT BY [CLICKING HERE](#)

Due no later than 5:00 PM (PDT) on **September 1**. The letter of intent is optional but will aid in securing the appropriate expertise on the review panel.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL BY [CLICKING HERE](#)

Due no later than **September 29**, the full application will include the following: cover page; ½ page abstract; a focused (≤ 3 pages) research plan; <1 page bibliography; biosketches of all investigators; cost share letter; budget and budget justification. *Grant submission portal will open August 1.*



AWARD

Up to \$37,500, for one year composed of a 2:1 ratio of funds from the Dean's office and the investigators' home department(s). For example, the maximum award would include \$25,000 from the Dean's office and \$12,500 from the home department(s) of participating investigator(s).

- Applications must include a letter of commitment specifying the amount and source(s) of the cost share.
- Applications from multiple departments can derive the cost share from any combination of participating departments; it is up to the investigators to secure the matching funds.
- A no-cost extension of up to one additional year may be granted upon review of a written request to the Dean of the Keck School
- The Keck School anticipates making up to ten awards in FY18, utilizing funds from the Christiansen Estate Endowed Fund and additional funds from the Dean's office for the School's contribution to awards.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Innovation of the research and novelty of the area of research to the PI(s)
- Feasibility of primary hypothesis / importance of purpose of the research
- Approach: Quality of study design, method, data acquisition/analysis
- Investigators: Qualifications to conduct the proposed research
- Potential to lead to extramural funding.
- Resources & Environment: Quality & availability of resources to conduct research

Recommendations for funding will be made by a scientific review committee appointed by the Dean of the Keck School of Medicine, with final approval by the Dean. Contact ailen.dinkjian@med.usc.edu for more information.