

Faculty,

I am writing to let you know about a new USC research solicitation focused on diversity, the completion to the USC Plan for Science and Technology Facilities, and the schedule for Office of Research sponsored solicitations for the coming year.

First, I am happy to report we have completed the extensive process for updating the [USC Plan for Science & Technology Facilities](#), which sets forth university priorities for investing in shared lab facilities. This plan was based on input received from directors of core (shared) labs, school deans, a special faculty advisory committee and the faculty at large. The plan describes an integrated set of facilities that span the University Park and Health Science campuses, ensuring that faculty, students and staff have access to facilities on either campus, no matter where their labs are located. Each of the Centers of Excellence listed in this document is committed to providing tools and services to support sharing of facilities and expertise across the entire university.

Additionally, I am announcing the newly created **Zumberge Innovation Fund Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) in Research Award**. This is a special solicitation aimed at supporting research and scholarship that addresses critical gaps in knowledge on equity, diversity, and inclusion, or which benefits diverse communities. To achieve these goals, the Zumberge D&I in Research Award provides up to **\$30,000** in pilot research support. Complementing this solicitation, our office is developing a strategic plan for diversity in research. We would appreciate any input you might provide as to how diversity and inclusion can be elevated as a strategic initiative for research in the university.

Last, I would also like to inform you of the schedule for various competitions for funding available from the Office for Research.

Award	Eligibility	Award Amount	Application deadline
Zumberge Diversity & Inclusion	All faculty	\$30,000 max	5 pm, Monday, October 30, 2017
Zumberge Individual	New & Jr. faculty, non-clinical; Sr. faculty in fields where external support is limited	\$30,000 max	5 pm, Monday, January 8, 2018
Ming Hsieh Institute	Nano medicine or immunotherapeutics focus for cancer	\$140,000 max	5 pm, Monday, January 22, 2018
Zumberge Interdisciplinary Large	Experienced faculty teams	\$85,000 max	5 pm, Monday, February 12, 2018
Zumberge Interdisciplinary Small	Experienced faculty teams	\$10,000 max	Open, Rolling deadline
Collaboration Fund	Experienced faculty teams	\$30,000 max/yr/3 yrs	5 pm, Monday, February 12, 2018
Core Instrumentation (Type A)	Core Directors	\$300,000 max	5 pm, Monday, April 23, 2018
Core Instrumentation (Type B)	Core Directors	\$200,000 max	Open, rolling deadline
Stevens Center Technology Advancement Grant (TAG)	Inventors who have submitted disclosure on technology	\$50,000 max	To be announced

For those conducting clinical research, please consult the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (<http://sc-ctsi.org/funding>).

Additional information on these as well as CTSI Pilot Awards will be provided at the upcoming [Center of Excellence in Research](#) workshops:

- September 29, 2017 I 11:45 - 1 PM I CHLA Saban Auditorium
- October 11, 2017 I 12 - 2 PM I UPC VPD 302
- October 12, 2017 I 12 - 2 PM I HSC West Conference Room

Information on all USC Research Awards can be found at: <http://research.usc.edu/for-investigators/funding/usc/>

Randolph Hall
Vice President of Research

The Zumberge Research Grants

Zumberge Diversity & Inclusion

Application deadline: 5 pm, Monday, October 30, 2017

Diversity in research is a key component of innovation. It enhances the creative process by bringing to the table new concepts and points of view and contributes to a culture of transformative scholarship. The Zumberge Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) in Research Award is a special solicitation aimed at supporting research and scholarship that addresses critical gaps in knowledge on equity, diversity, and inclusion, or which benefits diverse communities. To achieve these goals, the Zumberge D&I in Research Award provides up to **\$30,000** in pilot research support.

Zumberge Individual

Application deadline: 5 pm, Monday, January 8, 2018

The Zumberge Individual grant provides up to **\$30,000** in research support. The primary purpose of the individual awards program is to help our junior colleagues and new faculty launch their scholarly research careers, outside of the area of clinical research, which is supported by the CTSI (please note additional limitations in solicitation). It does so by providing grants that assist faculty in developing sustained research programs or serve as a stepping stone to external funding agencies for faculty that do not already have significant sponsored research programs. The Zumberge Individual grant also supports the inclusion of senior mentors to advise junior faculty as they develop their research programs. The secondary purpose of the individual awards program is to support faculty of any rank who work in fields where external funding opportunities are limited.

Zumberge Multi-School Interdisciplinary

Application deadline: 5 pm, Monday, February 12, 2018

Zumberge Multi-School Interdisciplinary grant provides seed funding of up to **\$85,000** for broad, collaborative research activities that are interdisciplinary and involve groups of faculty from multiple schools across USC. The priority for interdisciplinary awards is support for teams of faculty to seek an externally-funded grant on the scale of an interdisciplinary center, training grant, or program project award. Proposals must include a plan for sustainment of longer-term collaborative research activities beyond the Zumberge award period through external funding.

USC Core Instrumentation Fund

Application deadline: 5 pm, Monday, April 23, 2018 (Type A)

The Core Instrumentation Fund supports acquisition of shared instrumentation that enables major research endeavors in the sciences, medicine and engineering. In addition, the program provides matching funds to support the addition of technical staff within core laboratories. To be considered for selection, a proposal must be submitted by the faculty member who directs the core laboratory in which the equipment is installed, must be a user of CORES billing software, and the proposal must satisfy a need in USC's Strategic Plan for Scientific Facilities. There are two types of awards:

- Type A: Request full funding, from the university, for acquisition of equipment (up to **\$300,000**);
- Type B: Request matching funds toward acquisition of equipment (up to **\$200,000**).

Collaboration Fund

Application deadline: 5 pm, Monday, February 12, 2018

The aim of Collaboration Fund Award is to support teams of faculty who aim to establish or foster a community of scholars at USC organized around a broad topic of shared interest. Rather than fund specific research projects, the award funds the activities that help to develop this collaborative group. These activities should lay the groundwork for members of the collaborative group to create new research projects, and should contribute to strengthening the individual research programs of its members. Each collaboration should engage a large group of faculty (normally 10 or more), representing at least two schools at USC. Funding can be for up to three years, with the possibility of competitive renewal thereafter. The grant provides up to **\$30,000/year**; awards will be made for a three year period, subject to an annual progress review and an annual activity plan, and continued availability of funding.

Ming Hsieh Institute for Research of Engineering-Medicine for Cancer

Application deadline: 5 pm, Monday, January 22, 2018

The Ming Hsieh Institute seeks proposals by multi-disciplinary research teams employing computational biology, protein chemistry, physics, chemistry, pharmacology, and/or engineering, for the purpose of developing new treatments or diagnostics for patients that *a*) will initiate new nanomedicine multi-disciplinary research projects that show exceptional promise for translation into human clinical trials for treatment of cancer or *b*) aim to develop new targeted immunotherapeutic approaches to cancer. Proposals should demonstrate that a modest seed investment will have significant impact, either through initiating a novel research concept, or accelerating research into clinical trials. The grant provides up to **\$140,000**.

The Rose Hills Foundation Innovator Grant Program

Application deadline: Will not be offered until 2019

The Rose Hills Foundation is a legacy of the founders and directors of Rose Hills Memorial Park. The Foundation aims to fund research that has the potential to make a measurable impact to the greatest number of people, and, in particular, that shows demonstrated benefits to the people of Southern California. The primary purpose of the Rose Hills Fellowship is to provide junior faculty in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), with seed funds to launch their scholarly research careers. It does so by providing grants that assist faculty in developing self-sustaining research programs or serve as a stepping stone to external funding agencies for faculty who do not already have significant sponsored research programs. The grant provides up to **\$75,000/year**, renewable for a second year with demonstrated progress. Non-traditional biomedical research, such as psychology or behavioral, studies are not eligible to apply; investigators in these fields are directed to apply to the Zumberge Individual Research Award.

Stevens Center Technology Advancement Grants

Application deadline: To be announced

Technology Advancement Grants (TAGs) support technologies and innovations created at USC through validation or proof-of-concept development. The awards add value to unlicensed USC-owned innovations, aiming to increase the probability of obtaining a license in the future. TAGs have a competitive two-step application process comprising an initial review by USC Stevens' staff and the USC Stevens Faculty Advisory Committee and a final review and recommendation by an external advisory board of industry experts. It is anticipated that part of the award may be spent on outside organizations that will work with the principal investigator and USC Stevens to further develop the technology. The external advisory board may recommend that changes be made to the Project Plan in order for the project to be eligible for funding. The grant provides up to **\$50,000**.