COVID-19 Research Fund
Program Announcement

Supported by a generous gift from the W.M. Keck Foundation

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 | 4:00 PM
Application Deadline

None, applications accepted on a rolling basis
Overview

To support high-quality research to understand, treat, and prevent COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

• Seeking for research projects that address the pandemic at any level.
• Given the urgency and pace of generating new knowledge, emphasis is on projects that can produce results quickly.
• Proposals can be for up to a year.
• Must include specific milestones during the first six months.
• Initial award will be for six months; additional funds contingent on appropriate achievements of milestones.
Eligibility

• Full-time KSOM faculty (all levels, all series) at USC and CHLA can apply as PI
• Postdocs, residents, fellows, students, and faculty from other USC academic units, and community members can be included as co-investigator(s).
  • Collaborations with researchers outside of the Keck School is encouraged.
    • Funds from program must remain within Keck School.
    • Outside collaborators should be supported by matching funds
• Faculty members who are not U.S. citizens/permanent residents must hold a visa to allow them to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the proposed project.
Scope

• Seeking promising ideas and approaches to understand and mitigate COVID-19 and its impact on individuals and society. Applicant may apply for one of the following research categories:
  
  • Mechanistic or applied research at any level, from basic discovery to community and population health
  • Development of shareable COVID-19 research resources
  • Community education and engagement

Priority will be given to proposals with high potential for immediate impact.
Budget

• No specific limit to the budget. Requests should reflect the proposed work and be justified in the justification.
• Fringe benefits on salaries for support personnel should be requested at USC rate.
• Proposal can contain up to one year of work. Budget must include
  • The first six months
  • Up to six additional months
• Awards made for the first six months.
• Remaining funds contingent upon meeting milestones
How to submit (demo)
https://is.gd/ksomcovid19
Batched Reviews Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batch</th>
<th>Application Batched</th>
<th>Review Meeting</th>
<th>Final Decision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 13, 2020</td>
<td>May 29, 2020</td>
<td>June 1, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>May 27, 2020</td>
<td>June 12, 2020</td>
<td>June 15, 2020</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>June 10, 2020</td>
<td>June 25, 2020</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>June 24, 2020</td>
<td>July 10, 2020</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>July 8, 2020</td>
<td>July 24, 2020</td>
<td>July 27, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>July 22, 2020</td>
<td>August 6, 2020</td>
<td>August 10, 2020</td>
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# of applications submissions slow over time

2-week batching interval
Review Management Structure

Super Admin

Pre-clinical-mechanistic
- Chair
- Co-chair
- Admin

Clinical trials, therapeutics
- Chair
- Co-chairs
- Admin

Outcomes, epidemiology, populations
- Chair
- Co-chairs
- Admin
KSOM COVID-19 Research Taskforce

Pre-Clinical Research
Co-Chairs: Cannon, Ryan, Hamm-Alvarez

Clinical Trials/Therapeutics
Co-Chairs: Spicer, Armstrong

Characterization and Management Research
Co-Chairs: Peden, Espinoza

Epidemiology, Population Research
Co-Chairs: Cozen, Bahroos

Social, Behavioral and Mental Health Research
Co-Chairs: Unger, Leventhal

Community Outreach & Engagement Research
Co-Chairs: Baezconde-Garbanati, de la Haye

Outcomes/Epi/Population Prioritization Committee
Co-Chairs: Cockburn, McKean-Cowdin
Six Month Review

• Funded projects that propose more than six months of work need to submit a progress report after the first six months.

• Progress reports should summarize progress toward milestones

• Remaining funds will be contingent upon appropriate progress

Specific review criteria can be found in the RFA.
Resubmission only allowed if...

1. A recommendation by the panel is made to invite applicant to resubmit
2. Application meets a scoring threshold

*Only 1 resubmission is allowed*
REVIEW CRITERIA

To conduct mechanistic or applied research at any level, from basic discovery to community and population health.

For proposals to conduct mechanistic or applied research:

- **Significance**: With special emphasis on potential to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and/or its consequences.
- **Investigators**: Qualifications of PI and/or team to conduct proposed research; for collaborations outside of the Keck School, the value add of the collaborators and cost share from other school(s).
- **Innovation**: Novelty and innovation compared to existing information and ongoing research.
- **Approach**
  a. Is hypothesis or purpose plausible/important?
  b. Strategy, methodology, and analyses appropriate to aims/goals?
  c. Is approach feasible, including milestones and time frame for achieving them?
  d. Are potential problems and alternative strategies addressed?
  e. For clinical trials: primary/secondary endpoints, key inclusion/exclusion criteria, sample size and power, specimens and use, operational feasibility, including recruitment approach and clinician engagement.
  f. Will proposed analytical plan address the hypothesis/purpose of the study?
  g. Will next steps follow from proposed work/be impactful?
- **Environment**: Are the resources and environment in place for the proposed work?
- **Overall Impact**: Based on overall potential of success to advance the understanding, treatment and/or prevention of COVID-19 and its impact.
REVIEW CRITERIA

To develop shareable COVID-19 research resource(s)

For proposals to develop shareable COVID-19 research resource(s)

- **Significance:** Major emphasis will be placed on filling an unmet need, the scope of potential users, potential to support work that mitigates the COVID-19 pandemic and/or its consequences, importance to research in the Keck School and then USC
- **Investigators:** Qualifications, of PI and/or team to establish and support the proposed shared resource; value-add of any collaborators and cost share from other school(s)
- **Innovation:** Novelty and innovation of the resources, lack of overlap with available resources
- **Approach**
  a. Technical capabilities and details for developing the resource
  b. Approach to making the resource available, including support personnel, if needed
  c. Governance and access, including scientific review and prioritization of users
  d. Business and sustainability plan
  e. Next steps, if any
- **Environment:** Are the resources and environment in place for the proposed work?
- **Overall Impact:** Based on the potential for the proposed resource(s) to support important work in the Keck School to address COVID-19
For proposals to conduct community education and engagement

- **Significance**: Major emphasis will be placed on the potential to inform communities and foster behaviors that will mitigate the pandemic and/or its consequences
- **Investigators**: Qualifications, of PI and/or team to develop, deliver and evaluate the impact of the proposed education and/or engagement; if investigators from other schools are proposed, the cost share that will be provided
- **Innovation**: Innovation will be valued primarily in the context of potential impact on the community(ies) proposed for engagement and/or education
- **Approach**
  a. The content or structure of the proposed education or engagement
  b. Target community/population, including known risks and impact of the COVID-19 epidemic
  c. Methods for delivery, including match to target community(ies)
  d. Approach to evaluation of impact
  e. Next steps, if any
- **Environment**: Are the resources and environment in place for the proposed work?
- **Overall Impact**: based on probability of important contributions to mitigating of COVID-19 and/or its impact at the community level
Additional Resources from KSOM Intranet

COVID-19 Updates (this is updated nearly daily):

Task Force Page: COVID-19 Research -

Task Force Page: Research Continuity -
https://keckmedicine.sharepoint.com/sites/KSOM-Intranet/SitePages/Research-Continuity-Updates.aspx
Additional Resources from USC Office of Research

Provost New Strategic Directions for Research Award ($125,000 Max)
https://research.usc.edu/files/2020/04/PNSDRA-2020-solicitation-Final-040920.pdf

Special Request: Epidemic & Virus Related Research and Development Award
https://research.usc.edu/files/2020/04/Zumberge-Special-Solicitation-Epidemic-Virus-Related-Research-Final-041120.pdf

COVID-19 Clearinghouse
https://research.usc.edu/virusresearch/
USC Internal Research Resources

• Office of Research – COVID-19 Research-Related Updates
  https://research.usc.edu/coronavirus/

• CTSI COVID-19 Crowdsourced Research Database
  https://sites.google.com/view/scctsicovid/

• KSOM Task Force: Coronavirus Crowdsourced Basic Research Document: https://keck.usc.edu/mesh-academy/covid-19
  This is a list for USC researchers to learn about research capabilities, resources, and ideas, to enable connections and collaborations related to COVID-19. To access the latest document, you will need:
  1. @med.usc.edu email account – you can access immediately, or:
  2. Any other @usc.edu account, we can add you as a guest user. Please email Mary Bass at marybass@usc.edu to get access. (Note: This is a one-time request. Once you have access, you will continue to have access.)
Non-Federal COVID Funding Opportunities

1. California Institute for Regenerative Medicine: Special Call for COVID-19 Projects
   NOTE: COVID-19-related projects using convalescent plasma are now eligible for emergency CIRM funding.
   Application cycle deadline (accepting applications on a bimonthly basis)

4. Zumberge Special Solicitation: Epidemic & Virus-Related Research and Development Award
   Application deadline: May 11, 2020

5. United States-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund: Special Call for COVID-19 Ignition Grants
   Application deadline: May 15, 2020

6. United States-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund: Call for Proposals - Indo-U.S. Virtual Networks for COVID-19
   Application deadline: May 15, 2020

7. Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG) COVID-19 Competitive Grant Program Announcement
   Application deadline: May 22, 2020

8. MIT Solve: Health Security & Pandemics Challenge
   Application deadline: June 18, 2020
COVID-19 Research-Related Industry Opportunities

- **MESH Academy** at KSOM is continually outreaching to industry to identify areas of interest and explore collaborative opportunities with mutual benefit.

**COVID-Industry Outreach- Examples**

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<th>Company</th>
<th>Industry Opportunity or Needs</th>
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| Thermo Fisher            | - Offering panel aliquots of their Ion AmpliSeq SARS-CoV-2 Research Panel to evaluate SARS CoV-2 in epidemiological research studies  
                           - Also have a portfolio of immunology assays surveying the immune repertoire that could be used for research discovery related to clinical trials or classification of samples and correlation with a response. |
| Merck                    | - Interested in projects related to SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19 including vaccines, prophylactics, anti-viral treatments and therapeutics for the treatment of Covid-19 symptoms (proposals must have preliminary data)  
                           - Interest in accessing patient samples based on the size, diversity of the database                                                                                                                                   |
| Cytiva (formerly GE Life Sciences) | - Open to dialogue on how best to support (possible opportunity to negotiate a discount on products and/or services)                                                                                                      |
| Stem Cell Technologies   | - Possible opportunity to negotiate a discount on products and/or services                                                                                                                                                   |

For more information, please contact

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**MESH Academy BDIR Services**  
https://keck.usc.edu/mesh-academy/bdir
OPEN for Q & A

APPLY HERE: https://is.gd/ksomcovid19