

RFP #2: DEAN’S CHALLENGE AWARD TO ACCELERATE INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY IN MEDICINE (ACCEL-MED)

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to conducting exemplary biomedical research (basic, translational and clinical research) to improve the well-being of the citizens of Maryland and beyond by answering important questions underlying human health and disease.

PURPOSE OF AWARD: The School of Medicine will support a Dean’s Challenge Award/ACCEL-Med to encourage senior and junior SOM scientists to catalyze the launch of major, multi-disciplinary, collaborative “Big Science” research programs within the School and across Departments, Centers, Institutes and Programs. This funding program is intended to support the generation of pilot data for new and ambitious research projects. In addition, the program will provide mentoring to junior faculty on track to securing their first large external research award.

Teams for the Dean’s Challenge Awards must include **senior and junior investigators**, and be composed of **faculty whose primary research affiliations** are from **two or more** different Departments, Centers, Institutes or Programs (see below for more details on eligibility requirements).

Funding will be provided over a two-year period for projects which are positioned to acquire a large NIH/federal funding base, such as program project grants, center grants (P-series awards), cooperative agreements (U-series awards), or other multi-investigator awards with direct costs greater than or equal to \$700,000/year for a minimum of 5 years. Awards will not be given for existing projects funded by other sources. Up to 3 awards, totaling up to \$100,000 each per year, will be given.

As a condition for accepting an award, the grant recipients will agree to the following:

- Submit a major multi-investigator NIH/Federal application for a P-series, U-series, or equivalent award **in year 2** of seed grant funding
- **Year 2 of funding** will be conditional on submission of such an application in year 2
- Submit a progress report to the Office of Research Affairs in order to track scientific progress, expenditures to date, personnel status, presentations, publications, patents, and external grant proposals and awards
- Notify the Office of Research Affairs about, and include them in, periodic group meetings
- List the Dean’s Challenge Award/ACCEL-Med as a funding source on all publications and presentations

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. All PIs must hold full-time positions within the School of Medicine.
2. Teams must include **at least three PIs**, but can include more.
3. Team PIs must include the following:
 - a. At least **two senior investigators** (faculty with the title of “Professor” or “Associate Professor”) who are the PIs of an NIH award. Co-investigator or subcontract PI on an NIH grant are **not** acceptable.
 - b. At least **one junior investigator** (faculty with the title of “Assistant Professor”) who is **not** the PI of an NIH R-series award.

- c. At least two of the PIs must have primary research affiliations from different Departments, Centers, Institutes, or Programs.
- 4. Co-Investigators can be junior or senior faculty from any Department, Center, Institute or Program.

SUBMISSION: Proposals must be submitted to the SOM Office of Research Affairs (SOM-ORA@som.umaryland.edu).

DEADLINES: All applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. EST on October 13, 2017**. Applications received after the deadline will **not** be reviewed. Applications will be **reviewed at a study section in October 2017**, and the top proposals will be submitted for a second round of review by an internal council. Final selection will occur in **November 2017** to determine the proposals for funding. **Recipients of the Dean’s Challenge Award/ACCEL-Med will be announced in December 2017, with funds in place by early 2018.**

QUESTIONS: All applicants are strongly encouraged to send questions regarding eligibility, primary research affiliations, proposal format, or review process to Dr. Joni Prasad (jprasad@som.umaryland.edu) or Dr. Marey Shriver (mshriver@som.umaryland.edu) prior to responding to this RFP.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Section	Page Limit	Content
Cover Page	1	Include an abstract and a list of the key personnel for your proposal.
Research Strategy	6	Describe the specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach of your proposal. Follow general NIH R21 guidelines.
Budget & Justification	2	Provide an itemized budget and budget justification. Awards cannot be used to cover faculty salary and are exempt from F&A (indirect) costs.
External Funding Plan	1	Identify future funding sources the team will apply for in the second year of funding. This can include specific RFAs, communications from program officers expressing interest in the project, announcements of appropriate NIH funding programs, etc.
References	No limit	
Biographical Sketches	5 pages each	Include NIH-style biosketches for all key personnel on the proposal.