



**The University of Maryland  
Research and Innovation Partnership Grant Program  
Request for Proposals  
Deadline: July 15, 2018**

**OVERVIEW**

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) campuses are pleased to co-host the joint **Research and Innovation Partnership Grant Program** for 2018. The intent of this initiative is to promote structured collaboration between UMCP and UMB and to advance the institutions' joint goals in research and innovation.

Since 2008 the UM Research and Innovation Partnership Grant Program has:

- Fostered creative teams of investigators working across disciplinary boundaries and campuses;
- Supported new research foci and basic science tracks to pursue future health care improvements and/or technologies; and
- Stimulated submission and funding of innovative basic and translational science research proposals to federal, public or private funding agencies.

**DETAIL**

Overall, the partnership seeks to encourage groups of faculty members from both institutions to collaborate on **new** avenues of research that would not otherwise be explored by any single group or to boost an existing collaboration toward a major proposal submission. Projects should further the strategic collaborative interests between the two institutions and provide a clear path toward subsequent major external funding.

**THEMES**

This solicitation provides funding for proposals that will focus on one of several themes: Cancer; Infectious Disease; Analytics/Informatics; Medical Devices & Healthcare Technologies; Public Health; and Neuroscience. The research project must be original, creative, innovative, and be beyond the scope of a typical single research group. The research is expected to be from a project that is currently not funded by another mechanism, and is expected to lead to new external funding.

- **CANCER**
- **INFECTIOUS DISEASE**
- **ANALYTICS/INFORMATICS**
- **MEDICAL DEVICES & HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES**
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Healthy Aging & Youth Development
- **NEUROSCIENCE** (to include addiction)

If you have any questions about how well your project fits into one of these themes please contact the Research Development Office at UMCP.

## **FUNDING LIMITS**

*Project/Funding is anticipated to begin January 2019.*

**For awards up to \$50,000 per year for 1 or 2 years (UM SOM PI's cannot apply for this mechanism of award).**

- Proposals in this range should aim to stimulate innovative and collaborative ideas between faculty members at the two campuses, with a goal of preparing a joint research proposal to federal or private institutions.
- PIs must submit a proposal related to the seed funding to a major federal funding agency by the end of the first year of funding.

**For awards over \$50,000 but not greater than \$75,000 per year for 1 or 2 years.**

- Proposals in this range should aim to allow teams representing both campuses to further develop collaborative activities that will lead to major, highly visible research proposals to federal or private institutions.
- Applications will be scored on likelihood that projects that will generate pilot data over a two-year period that will ensure research team is **strategically positioned to acquire a significant federal funding base, such as NIH program project grants or center grants (P-series awards), cooperative agreements (U01 awards)**, or equivalent large awards from other federal agencies (NSF, DoD) or private institutions. (For SOM projects, PIs must commit to submitting a major multi-investigator NIH application for a P-series, U-series, or equivalent award (with greater than \$3 million in direct funds) by the end of the first year of funding to receive the second year of support)

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Faculty eligibility criteria (seniority level and current funding level) and school participation in each track has been set by each school individually and are indicated below.

### **For UMCP:**

- All tenure track and professional faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor, Assistant Research Scientist or higher, whose full-time, home position is at UMCP, are eligible to apply. Visiting, Adjunct, and Affiliate faculty are not eligible to apply.

### **For All UMB Schools (SOD, SON, SOP, SSW) Except the SOM:**

- PIs must be full-time, tenured, or tenure-track faculty members having primary academic appointments at UMB.

### **\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Specific to the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM):**

- SOM PIs must be NIH-funded investigators and tenured or tenure track Associate or Full Professors.
- PIs must commit to submitting a major multi-investigator NIH application for a P-series, U-series, or equivalent award (with greater than \$3 million in direct funds) by the end of the first year of funding.
- The second year of funding is contingent upon an aforementioned NIH grant submission by the end of the first year.

## AWARDS

The number of awards will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received, as well as their proposed budgets. The program will have significant financial support from many sources.

**NEW Required Cost Share (UMCP only):** UMCP's award costs will now be split between the Division of Research and the applicant's college/department. Each applicant must have a completed/signed Universal Funding Form included with their application. The form can be found online on the competition portal.

Individual investigators may submit multiple proposals but can participate as a PI on only one awarded proposal. The top-ranked proposals, after peer review, will be recommended for funding. Investigators can serve as collaborators on an unlimited number of proposals. Past awardees remain eligible for this year's competition.

If you have questions regarding application guidelines, please contact UMCP: Hana Kabashi ([hkabashi@umd.edu](mailto:hkabashi@umd.edu)) or UMB/SOM: Maggi Smith, [msmith@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:msmith@som.umaryland.edu).

## PROJECTS

**Expectations:** Award recipients are expected to produce sufficient preliminary results so that a proposal for external funding may be submitted by the end of the first year of funding. In addition, it is expected that publication(s) or manuscript(s) will result from the funded work. Awardees will participate in annual Progress Reviews(s) or other events that bridge campuses and bring researchers together. Recipients will remain faculty members of the participating school throughout the course of the grant, with any substitutions requiring approval in advance. *If there is a change to the PI/Co-PI from either university during the review process, they must notify the program coordinators immediately.*

**Review:** Proposals will be evaluated by a committee that will include faculty from UMB and UMCP campuses. Anonymized comments will be returned. Proposals will be reviewed for: 1) how well the project meets the goals of the theme, including the composition of the team of investigators; 2) meeting criteria (e.g., relevance to future public health concerns, significance, innovation, approach and qualifications of investigative team/environment to carry out the aims); and 3) likelihood of attracting outside funding in the future. The proposals should provide a specific targeted timeline by which objectives can be reasonably achieved. Finally, the proposal should provide a budget that adequately reflects the intended use of the funds with respect to the proposed objectives for each institutional component.

**Allowable Expenses:** Research supplies; purchase or rental of equipment for new research; travel for research purposes (excluding travel to meetings or symposia); matching funds for research items; and salary support for a temporary position (1 year or less) for technicians, research associates (post-docs) and/or graduate students.

**Expenses Not Allowed:** Salaries for PIs are not allowed. UMB allows for a waiver process – which must be granted prior to submission by the Dean of the School and Bruce Jarrell. The UMB School of Social Work has already been granted a waiver for the inclusion of PI salary. Other expenses such as secretarial support, general telephone services and postage, alterations or renovations of laboratory space, purchase of laboratory or office furniture, purchase of periodicals and books, and dues and memberships in scientific societies are not allowed.

## Conditions of the Award:

1. Awards are made to PIs and are not transferable without prior approval by the Chief Academic & Research Officer, UMB and Vice President for Research, UMCP.
2. Equipment purchased with these funds is the property of UMB and UMCP and must remain should the PI leave his/her University.
3. Annual progress report and a final report (after 3 years) will be prepared. All reports will request an update listing all presentations, published papers, extramural funds, patents, inventions, or creation of new companies, and technology for commercialization that have resulted, in whole or in part, from the project.
4. Funds should be budgeted for completion and exhausted at the end of the award period. Remaining or unspent funds are to be returned for subsequent competitions.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Your proposal must contain the items outlined below, under the page limitations provided. Proposals failing to meet these guidelines will not be considered for funding. Guidelines and forms may be found at: <https://umd.infoready4.com/> for the UMB-UMCP 2018 Seed Grant Competition. Anticipated funding start date will be January 1, 2019.

### Cover Page (limited to 1 page):

1. **Track: Themed area of research; overall \$ request**
2. **Title of Project**
3. **Names of all Co-PIs** - Specify appointments and home departments; for UMB, any exceptions to the eligibility requirements must be approved by the Dean of the participating school prior to submission of a proposal, and reviewed by the VPR, UMCP and Chief Academic & Research Officer, UMB.
4. **Statement of Collaborative Effort** – For basic and translational research proposals, a specific statement as to how the collaboration between the investigators from each campus is necessary to move this research proposal forward is requested. This should include processes for maintaining communication and interactions between campuses, and monitoring of equitable distribution of intellectual involvement.

### Proposed Research (maximum 5 single-spaced pages) including:

1. **Specific Aims** - Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans, as appropriate.
2. **Project Description** - (including Project Plan, expected outcomes) include two or three sentences describing the public health relevance of the project and commercial benefit (where applicable).
3. Please comment on how this interaction will impact the research program's future direction and the following:

**Significance:** 1) Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses; 2) explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields; and 3) describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

**Innovation:** 1) Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms; 2) describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s); and 3) explain any refinements, improvements or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.

**Budget (limited to 2 page):**

1. **Total** amount of Funds being requested and expected timeframe of project; individual and detailed budgets for each campus.
2. **Identified Future Funding Source** - be explicit; Detail which program in which agency will be targeted for a future application.
3. **Additional Information** - Biosketches – NIH format (all faculty); References (including full titles)

**Completed/signed Universal Funding Form (for UMCP investigators only):** Procure unit authorization (chair/dean(s)/other) on the Universal Funding Form (all on one form), indicating their financial commitment to the required cost share. Unit support contribution should equal 50% of the UMCP portion of the request.

**Submission:**

*Proposals must be submitted to the new online workflow site, InfoReady Seed Grant and Limited Submission Portal, <https://umd.infoready4.com/> for the UMB-UMCP 2018 Seed Grant Competition prior to 11:59 pm EST on July 15, 2018.*