

**MUSC Dental College of Medicine and
MUSC Foundation for Research Development**

**Request for Applications (RFA) for Innovation Grant
For MUSC College of Dental Medicine Faculty Only**

RFA Release Date: December 19, 2017

OVERVIEW

MUSC's College of Dental Medicine, in conjunction with the MUSC Foundation for Research Development (FRD) aims to accelerate academic innovations into marketed products by providing funding of up to \$25,000 to advance innovative, clinically relevant technologies. The award will support a twelve (12) month study designed to improve the commercial value of dental technologies by strengthening or creating intellectual property (IP) and moving technologies further down the development pathway, thus increasing the partnerships and licensing opportunities with industry

The primary objective of the gap funding awards is to support projects that have a high chance of being commercialized, but that are not likely to get there without interim/gap funding. Funds are intended to **advance projects to the next developmental milestone** (i.e., a dental device prototype) by enabling investigators to conduct additional experiments, such as, but not limited to, those that:

- Prototype a device
- Build or validate a software program
- Optimize dental therapeutic compounds

Projects to be supported and allocated budgets will be determined through applications reviewed by an internal review board and FRD.

This RFA is open to advance **technologies protected by, or protectable by, IP that is assigned or assignable to MUSC pursuant the MUSC IP Policy**. If a patent or patent application is not currently assigned to FRD, a Record of Invention must be filed with the FRD office simultaneous with the RFA.

Projects are expected to be completed in the allotted 12-monthtime frame with a six-month review.

KEY DATES

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Invitation to Submit Application | December 19, 2017 |
| • Full Application Due | March 1st, 2018 |
| • Notice of Award | April 1st, 2018 |

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Investigators

- Applications only accepted from faculty of the MUSC Dental College of Medicine
- Principal Investigators (PI) may serve as the PI of only one application
- Co-Investigators (Co-I) who helped conceive of the experimental idea, contributed to the intellectual development of the concept, and/or designed the study or part thereof (scientific or technical details).
- NIH biosketches for all investigators are preferred (not required) in the **new 5-page format** (General Biographical Sketch Format Page – Forms Version C).
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format>

Intellectual Property (IP)

- Supported technologies must be assigned or assignable to MUSC.
- Inter-institutional collaborations resulting in assignment with MUSC and one or more other universities are allowed.
- If a patent or patent application is not currently pending through FRD, a Record of Invention must be filed simultaneous with the application.
- Technologies licensed or optioned to a startup are eligible for funding, so long as the IP is assigned or assignable to MUSC. Please note that the funds will be given to the MUSC PI as a traditional grant and not to the company.

Research Aims

- Aims must be milestone driven with a commercialization and future funding of the project to be considered and summarized.
- Proposals for prototyping of a medical device are encouraged. Detailed drawings of the proposed device should be included in the proposal. If awarded, the PI's role will be to determine the specifications for the prototype.
- Dental therapeutics projects should include lead compound and target information. Follow-on funding strategies, like SBIR/STTR grants are a must.

BUDGET AND ALLOWABLE COSTS

- **Faculty Salary Support.** Salary and fringe benefits are not allowable budget items for faculty.
- **Effort Reporting.** For federal/institutional compliance purposes, it is PI's responsibility to make sure all the investigators efforts listed in the budget are in compliance with their institutional effort policy.
- Please note that investigators are not required to accommodate their efforts on the project budget. However, they have to be in compliance with their respective institution's effort policy should they choose to charge the effort to other funding sources.
- **Other Personnel Support.** Salary and fringe benefits are allowed for technical support, such as Research Fellows, Research Assistants/Coordinators, Research Nurses, etc. Please confirm fringe benefit rates on your respective institution's Sponsored Awards Office website.
- **Students.** These funds cannot be used to cover student tuition, fees or health insurance costs in any way, directly or indirectly as a stipend.

- **Ancillary Personnel.** Salary support for ancillary personnel, such as Mentors, Secretaries, and Administrative Assistants, is not allowed.
- **Non-personnel Research Expenses.** Some allowable expenses are: supplies, equipment (under limited circumstances), animal purchase cost and care, study subject stipends, study subject transportation costs, in- and out-patient care costs, and statistical and computational services including personnel and computer time. All expenses must be directly related to the proposed research.
- **Unallowable costs.** General office supplies and equipment, computers and laptops (unless specifically requested and justified), membership dues and fees, traveling costs to meetings, publication and subscription costs, mailing costs and rent.
- **Facilities & Administrative (Overhead/Indirect) Costs.** Facilities and administrative costs, also known as indirect/overhead costs, are not permitted.
- **Business Manager Responsibilities.** PI's Department/Division Business Manager shall be responsible for all human resource, procurement and reconciliation activities for the funded project accounts.

AWARD DETAILS

- Progress reports are due at a 6-month and 12-month intervals while the project is active.
- By accepting these funds and support, you agree to cite the MUSC Dental College Innovation Grant in any publication or presentation
- Technologies advanced with gap funding awards are subject to Bayh-Dole provisions.
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/bayh-dole.htm>

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are submitted the following web site: frd@musc.edu
- Applications are due no later than 5pm, March 1st, 2018. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Overview

Applications will be reviewed by an internal panel assembled by the dental School and FRD.

Review Criteria

Applications will be assessed to determine the impact that the funding will have on:

- Advancing a technology to the next developmental milestone
- Attracting commercial interest in the technology
- Attracting additional development funding for the technology
- Patentability or strength of patent

Additionally, work proposed in the application will be reviewed on:

- Likely completion of the study within 12-month timeframe
- Appropriateness of the proposed budget expenditures with respect to the development plan for the technology

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO

Renne@musc.edu

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Application consists of four uploads:

- 1) Each investigator's biosketch (suggested but not required)
- 2) Project Summary and Relevance, 1-page limit
- 3) Budget and Justification
- 4) Research Proposal, 4-page limit

Project Summary and Relevance (1-page limit)

- This section should serve as a succinct and accurate description of the technology and the developmental milestones to be achieved with the gap funding award. Describe the current state of the art and limitations thereof and the state of the IP for the subject technology. This section should be informative to others working in the same or related fields and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader.

Budget and Justification

- Applicants must use the PHS 398 Form Page 4; attached

Research Proposal (4-page limit, combined into a single PDFfile)

- **Specific Aims** should state concisely the goals of the proposed study and summarize the expected outcome(s) including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the development of the technology.
- Provide a **Research Strategy** section that is informative enough for reviewers to understand the proposed research without any supporting documents. Describe how the study will advance the technology to the next developmental milestone, what criteria will be used for determining a successful outcome, and the commercial significance of such criteria. Be sure to explain the roles/duties of each team member.
- **Patentability:** Investigators should describe and provide citations of the closest known related technology or use thereof.
- **Literature Cited** should be included at the end of the Research Proposal and is not counted towards the Research Proposal page limit.