

# College of Pharmacy Innovation Grant.

*Application Deadline June 1, 2015*

## Description:

In these challenging times of obtaining federal grants, it is especially risky to propose new ideas that may be highly innovative, but due to limited prior investigations, would be considered high risk investments when trying to secure conventional funding. However, because the decreasing funding lines are increasingly limiting grants to those that are considered to be transformative but with sufficient documented data that they no longer are considered “high risk” the College believes it is important to provide support for break-through ideas exhibiting high potential but as yet having limited or no preliminary<sup>1</sup> data.

We are therefore offering the opportunity for College of Pharmacy faculty to apply for one \$100,000 Innovation Grant to be paid over two years for faculty to explore innovative, but risky ideas without penalty to their careers. The Grant is patterned on NIH’s Pioneer Award Program that supports *“individual scientists of exceptional creativity, who propose pioneering – and possibly transforming approaches – to major challenges in biomedical and behavioral research. The term “pioneering” is used to describe highly innovative approaches that have the potential to produce an unusually high impact on a broad area of biomedical or behavioral research, and the term “award” is used to mean a grant for conducting research, rather than a reward for past achievements.*

Faculty at all career levels are eligible to apply for the College’s Innovation Grant. The deadline for application is June 1, 2015 for funding scheduled to begin in August, FY2016. Please note that this is not a grant that can be used for bridge funding, continuation or expansion of current research. The work proposal has to be truly pioneering and have high potential for being transformative. As this is to fund research considered to be of high risk, success will be measured in terms of either proving or disproving the idea being researched.

## Application process:

The application should be similar to NIH applications. (NIH forms, e.g., 424 R&R and PHS 398 can be used.) The application should contain:

- An abstract
- A budget justification [maximum \$100,000]
- Other ongoing and completed research projects<sup>2</sup>
- Biographical sketch<sup>3</sup> [for outside reviewers benefit]
- Research Plan [not to exceed 10 pages]
  - Aim(s) [Generally one overarching aim]
  - Significance
  - Innovation [what is new and innovative]
  - Background for project idea
  - Research Strategy and Description of Research
- Collaborators [if necessary to provide legitimacy to the research strategy]
- Literature citations [no page limitation]

The Completed application should be sent directly to the Dean who will establish an evaluation panel to review the proposals. Electronic submission is acceptable.

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data may help convince reviewers that the approach is logical and potentially worthwhile. If you have preliminary data, they should be briefly summarized in the Research Strategy Section of the application. Also keep in mind that if the preliminary data suggests that success is certain, this may be an indication that the project is not new, exceptionally innovative or high risk.

<sup>2</sup> This information is important for outside reviewers to both determine the strength of the applicants as well as whether the work is truly novel.

<sup>3</sup> No more than ten items, each of which illustrates innovation and significance of past accomplishments or is project relevant. Annotation permitted to explain innovation and significance represented by item. Item may be publication, patent, or meeting abstract. This information will be important for the reviewers in determining whether the applicant has the background and skill set to carry out the proposed work.