

In the Spotlight

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Innovation Grant Available to College of Pharmacy Faculty

University of Georgia College of Pharmacy faculty have the opportunity to apply for a \$100,000 Innovation Grant to be paid out over two years for faculty to explore innovative, but risky, ideas without penalty to their careers.

The Grant is patterned on the National Institutes of Health'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 achievement."

"In these challenging times of obtaining federal grants, it is especially risky to propose innovative ideas that may be considered high risk investments when trying to secure conventional funds," stated Dean Svein Oie. "Because funding is increasingly limited to those grants that are transformative but with sufficient documented data that they no longer are regarded as high risk, the College believes it is important to provide support for breakthrough ideas exhibiting high potential but having limited or no preliminary data."

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. This grant cannot be used for bridge funding, continuation or expansion of current research. The work proposed has to be truly pioneering and have high potential for being transformative. Since the research is to be considered high risk, success will be measured in terms of either proving or disproving the ideas being researched.

For more information on the Innovation Grant's application process, refer to <http://www.rx.uga.edu/images/pdf/admin/innovation-grant-2015.pdf>.