**SLU**
RESEARCH

Igniting Discovery, Transforming Lives

# INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

## Deadline: **April 2, 2018 5:00 P.M. CST**

Questions regarding these guidelines may be directed to Bob McNair in the Office of the Vice President for Research, at (314) 977-9377, Email: robert.mcnair@slu.edu

## PURPOSE, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND

This pilot funding is intended to encourage collaborative groups of interdisciplinary researchers across at least two or more academic units to conceptualize a larger future grant application for external funding. New working relationships are encouraged. Applications for pilot projects should include a tentative plan for a future structured grant and clearly describe how the seed money will be used to support the future grant application.

Please feel free to connect with your Associate Dean for Research for any specific questions about this funding opportunity.

## DEADLINE

**Complete Application Packages must be received by April 2, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. CST.**

## AWARD DETAILS

**Eligibility**
- Full-time faculty members
- Interdisciplinary faculty representation (e.g. faculty from two or more colleges, schools, or centers)
- One application per PI is allowed for this opportunity

**Award Amounts**
Category 1:     Up to $5,000 – approximately 6 proposals
Category 2:     Up to $10,000 – approximately 3 proposals
Category 3:     Up to $20,000 – approximately 2 proposals

Awards are made based on a competitive review process in which reviewers consider an application on the merits of the specific activities proposed, and relative ranking among other applications. Awards may not be granted in all categories.

**Performance Period**
Support can be requested for the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. We do not allow grant extensions.

## APPLICATION FORMAT

To aid review, a grant application package is provided. Please complete the application package and submit a single PDF file for review.

1. **APPLICATION NARRATIVE - 2 page maximum.**

Address all sections briefly describing the Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and Approach of your proposed research project. The narrative may not exceed 2 single-spaced typewritten page, with 1/2-inch margins, in no smaller than 11-point Arial.  See Review process section for what to include in each section.

**2.  REFERENCE CITATIONS LIST - 1 page maximum.**

**3.  EXTERNAL FUNDING PLAN – 1/2 page maximum.**
Detail plans for external funding and how the requested funding will enhance the likelihood of external funding.

**4.  BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION - 1 page maximum.**
Attach a detailed, itemized, budget for your proposed research project. (1 page limit).  Provide a clear, budget narrative description of how funds in each category will be used (1/2 page limit). The budget request should align with one of the 3 grant categories.

**Eligible Expenses.**  Expenses that are essential to the proposed project are allowed. Materials, supplies, and other expenses requested must directly relate to the proposed project. Examples of research expenses are:
- Materials and supplies necessary for the specific project
- Software not normally provided by the department/University
- Transcription
- Participant reimbursement
- Secondary data purchase
- Research staff (within the University only)
- Salary and fringe benefits for non-key personnel/staff members are allowed, as well as student labor whether they are graduate or undergraduate students.
- Only reasonable expenses directly related to the project should be listed

**Inneligible Expenses.**
- Salary for principal investigator or other senior/key personnel
- Tuition or fees
- Indirect costs should not be included.

**5.  CURRICULUM VITA/BIOSKETCH - 2 pages maximum.**
Provide a current curriculum vita or NIH format biosketch for all Key Personnel (e.g., PD/PI, Co-PI, and Co-I).  Content should emphasize information on positions and honors, research support for the past three years, and highlight publications relevant to the proposed research project

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION – ONE STEP REQUIRED.

Email your final Application Package in a single PDF file to robert.mcnair@slu.edu and copy your department chair. You will receive an email confirming receipt.

Late applications will not be considered.

## INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE

Projects including the use of human subjects, animals, hazardous materials, etc., must have the appropriate committee approval(s), e.g., Institutional Review Board (IRB), Animal Care Committee, Institutional Biosafety Committee, etc. prior to the start of the project.

In the event that an **Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Research Grant** award is made and required approvals are not received prior to the start date, the award may be delayed until approval is received.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Awards are made based on a competitive review process in which reviewers consider an application on the merits of the specific activities proposed, relative ranking among other applications, and the availability of funds.  Proposals must demonstrate exceptional merit and value for the field of study, the individual, the department, the College or School, and the research mission of the University. Preference may be given to new interdisciplinary collaborations.

Upon determination of compliance with guidelines, applications will undergo peer review by the Applied Health Research Council and will be given an overall impact score (1 = Exceptional and 9 = Poor [similar to the current NIH scoring system]) to determine which applications will be funded based on the following criteria.

1. **Significance** - Does the proposed pilot project meaningfully engage faculty across different academic units and disciplines? Does the future project that follows from the proposed pilot project address an important health issue?
2. **Investigators** – Are the PI(s) and other researchers well suited to the pilot project?
3. **Innovation** - Does the proposed pilot project address a novel approach or propose new avenues for investigation at SLU?
4. **Approach –** Are the overall strategy, (and methodology and analyses where indicated) well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the proposed pilot project that would lead to future grant submissions?
5. **Potential for future external funding –** How does the proposed pilot project increase the likelihood for future funding?

| Impact Score | Rating | Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses |
|---|---|---|
| **High** | | |
| 1 | Exceptional | Exceptionally strong, essentially no weaknesses |
| 2 | Outstanding | Extremely strong, negligible weaknesses |
| 3 | Excellent | Very strong , only some minor weaknesses |
| **Medium** | | |
| 4 | Very Good | Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses |
| 5 | Good | Strong but with at least one moderate weakness |
| 6 | Satisfactory | Some strengths but also some moderate |
| weaknesses | | |
| **Low** | | |
| 7 | Fair | Some strengths but at least one major weakness |
| 8 | Marginal | A few strengths and a few major weaknesses |
| 9 | Poor | Very few strengths, numerous major weaknesses |

*Minor Weakness*: an easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact
*Moderate Weakness*: a weakness that lessens impact
*Major Weakness*: a weakness that severely limits impact

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS

The award will be placed in a designated fund in the administrative PI's name within the Office of the Vice President for Research. PIs are required to oversee and approve all expenditures according to the approved budget. No-cost extensions are not allowed under this funding opportunity and remaining funds will be retained by the committee for allocation for future projects.

Each awarded team is required to present at a future Interdisciplinary Health Research Symposium.  A 1-page technical report and a summary of expenditures must be delivered to the Applied Health Research Council by August 30, 2019 5:00 P.M. CST.  In addition, recipients of the support are required to complete very brief annual reports that document any external funding, publications, or presentations directly related to this support for three (3) years following the project end date.