APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

Deadline: **January 15, 2021 5:00 P.M. CST**

PURPOSE, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND

This grant program is intended to encourage applied health sciences research projects to conceptualize a larger application for external funding. Collaborative groups are emphasized, and new working relationships are encouraged. Applications for pilot projects should include a tentative plan for a future structured grant, the extent of each collaborator's contribution to the proposal, and a clear description of how the seed money will support the future grant application.

We encourage you to connect with your Associate Dean for Research or members of the Applied Health Research Council (AHRC) for any specific questions about this funding opportunity.

DEADLINE

Applications must be received by January 15, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. CST, via the Openwater portal. Log in to myslu.slu.edu and click on the Openwater icon in the 'Tools' tab. Log-in with your current SLU email address (i.e., first.last@slu.edu) and your password. The first time you log in, you will be asked to set up your profile.

AWARD DETAILS

Single discipline projects will be considered; however, 75% of award dollars will be designated towards projects from collaborative teams of investigators.

Eligibility
- Full-time faculty members
- Collaborative teams refer to faculty representation from two or more colleges, schools, and/or units
- One application per PI is allowed for this opportunity

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

Awards are based on a competitive review considering the merits of the specific activities proposed, and relative ranking among other applications. Awards may not be granted in all categories.

Performance Period
Support will be for the period from May 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022.

Grant extensions will not be allowed and will only be granted for exceptional circumstances; requests will be reviewed by the AHRC.

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1. APPLICATION NARRATIVE – 1000 word limit
Address all sections briefly, describing the Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and Approach of your proposed research project.

An additional 250 words should be used to clarify the role of each collaborator. See Review process section for what to include in each section.

2. REFERENCE CITATIONS LIST

3. EXTERNAL FUNDING PLAN – 250 word limit
Detail plans for external funding and how the requested funding will enhance the likelihood of external funding.

4. BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION – 250 word limit
Include a detailed, itemized budget. Provide a clear narrative description of how funds in each category will be used. The budget request should align with one of the 3 grant award 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, as well as student labor whether they are graduate or undergraduate students
- Only reasonable expenses directly related to the project should be listed

Ineligible Expenses.
- Salary for principal investigator or other senior/key personnel
- Tuition or fees
- Indirect costs

5. CURRICULUM VITA/BIOSKETCH - 5 pages maximum.
Provide a current curriculum vita or NIH-format biosketch for all key personnel (PD/PI, Co-PI, and Co-I). Content should emphasize information on positions and honors, research support for the past three years, how they are contributing to the project, and publications relevant to the project.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications should be submitted via the Openwater portal. Log in to myslu.slu.edu and click on the Openwater icon in the 'Tools' tab. You can log in using your current SLU email address (i.e., first.last@slu.edu) and your password. The first time you log in, you will be asked to set up your profile.

You will receive an email confirming receipt. Late applications will not be considered.

INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE

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

If required approvals are not received prior to the start date, the award may be delayed until approval is received.

REVIEW PROCESS

Awards are based on a competitive review. Reviewers consider the merits of the specific activities proposed, relative ranking among other applications, and 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 collaborations.

Upon determination of compliance with guidelines, applications will undergo peer review by the AHRC. Similar to the NIH scoring system, proposals will be given an overall impact score ranging from 1 (exceptional) to 9 (poor), 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 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 Applied Health Research Symposium. A 1-page technical report and a summary of expenditures must be delivered to the AHRC by August 30, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. CST. In addition, recipients of the support are required to complete 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.