



LIFESPAN RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LIFESPAN SEED FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM - 2012

Program Announcement

Purpose:

The major goal of the Lifespan Seed Funding Grant Program is to provide support for investigators to obtain pilot data that would support and strengthen external grant funding applications.

The Lifespan Seed Funding Grant Program will provide funding for two groups of investigators as described below:

- Established Investigators – defined for the purposes of this program as those investigators who have had, or currently hold, peer-reviewed funding, such as grants from NIH or the American Cancer Society. For established investigators, preference will be given to proposals that both lead to a new area of investigation and/or that involve collaborations that cross academic departments or disciplines. The Program is designed not to fund ongoing research, but rather, to finance pilot projects with the intention of seeking new, external funding
- New Investigators – defined for the purposes of this program as those investigators who have never had peer-reviewed funding as the principal investigator. Preference will be given to proposals that involve collaborations that cross academic departments or disciplines. The Program is designed not to fund ongoing research, but rather, to finance pilot projects with the intention of seeking new, external funding.

Funding Mechanisms:

There will be two funding mechanisms for the 2012 fiscal year: \$150,000 has been allocated to this program by The Miriam Hospital Foundation, to support faculty and research that are based at The Miriam Hospital; and the Lifespan Research Advisory Committee has allocated

\$150,000 to support applications from researchers across the Lifespan hospital system. In all cases, funding awards will range between \$20,000 to \$35,000, depending on scientific merit and need.

Eligibility:

Any faculty member holding an academic appointment at Brown University, and who receives at least 50% of his/her salary support from a Lifespan partner, or an affiliated foundation, is eligible. The Lifespan Research Advisory Committee, may, in exceptional cases, consider other Lifespan based research staff.

The applicant needs to demonstrate independence in their research program through the Statement of Research Direction, which outlines their long-term research goals and how the Developmental Grant will assist them in achieving these goals. For New Investigators, the application must also identify a researcher or clinician within the Lifespan/Brown Community who is willing to serve as a mentor.

Should the applicant have any questions about their eligibility, please call the Lifespan Administrative Director of Research Administration (Peggy McGill), at 444-5113, who will make eligibility determinations.

Submission and Application:

Proposals (One original, signed, paper copy and a SINGLE PDF file of the complete proposal) will be submitted to the Office of Research Administration by 5:00 p.m., June 1, 2012. The single PDF file may be uploaded through the ORA Grants and Contracts portal at <http://intra.lifespan.org/researchadmin/upload/>

All proposals must indicate the appropriate investigator category (Established Investigator or New Investigator) on the face page.

The proposal must utilize 12 point type. Proposals exceeding the page limits will not be reviewed for funding. The proposal must include:

- Lifespan Seed Funding Grant Face page/routing form (attached to this document).
- Abstract including description, performance sites, and key personnel. **(Not to exceed 1 page.)** In this section, be succinct and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.
- Statement of Research Direction and Goals. Include any descriptions of possible collaborative efforts and how this project may lead to future, external funding. **(Not to exceed 1 page.)**
- Budget with justification, detailing supplies, animal costs, etc. The form for the budget may be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
- Biographical Sketch for PI only (NIH 398). Also provide a listing of current support and pending applications, including intramural or startup support. **(Not to exceed 4 pages in total.)** The form may be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
- Research Plan **(Sections A – F are not to exceed 5 pages in total.)**
 - A. Specific Aims
 - B. Background and Significance
 - C. Preliminary Studies
 - D. Research Design and Methods
 - E. Human Subjects
 - F. Vertebrate Animals
- Literature Cited. **(Not to exceed 2 pages.)**
- Letters of Support
 - Letter of support from Chief indicating knowledge and merit of the project.
 - Letter of support from faculty Mentor (if applicable).
- Appendix (If needed, high quality reproductions of Figures or Tables already included in the Research Plan. **(Not to exceed 2 pages.)**)

Peer Review Process and Funding Cycle:

Seed Funding projects will be reviewed by a three-tiered system. Initial review will be by the Chief or Division Directors in each Department, who will select the best proposals, giving consideration to the quality and productivity of the investigator, previous and current grant support from external sources and from Lifespan, the long term commitment of the department to the academic development of the individual, and the relevance of the research to ongoing/new programs.

After submission, the proposals will be processed and then sent to members of the Lifespan Research Advisory Committee and/or special external *ad hoc* reviewers who may be appointed by Lifespan's Chief Research Officer. Members of the Board of Trustees of any affiliated hospital may be invited to serve on the review committee. Each proposal will be assigned to at least two *ad hoc* reviewers. Each reviewer will be asked to evaluate the proposed project, budget requested, facilities requested, etc. Each reviewer will assign a priority score from 1 through 5 (with 1 being the highest score), submit a written summary of strengths and weaknesses, and return their comments by **July 13, 2012**. The Research Advisory Committee

will subsequently meet to discuss the reviewers' comments and to determine the final ranking of the awards. The awards will be announced during the week of **August 20, 2012** and funding will be effective **September 1, 2012**.

There will be a sliding scale of funding based on priority scores. These grants may not request:

- Salary for the investigator (except in unusual circumstances and with appropriate documentation)
- Foreign travel
- Publication costs
- Fringe benefits

Necessary equipment that will expand the capabilities of a particular hospital-based laboratory, and that is critical to the conduct of the proposed research, is allowed with appropriate justification.

The term of each project will be for 12 months, beginning on **September 1, 2012 and ending on August 31, 2013**.

Each investigator will be required to submit a final report, detailing results, publications, and external funding requests based upon the Lifespan or TMH Foundation funded work, by **November 30, 2013, following the end of the award period**. Future funding or publication results and plans should be indicated in this final report.

All publications resulting from this pilot funding, will acknowledge, as a source of support, 'Lifespan Hospital System Research Funds or 'The Miriam Hospital Foundation' depending on the award received.