

The University of Cincinnati
Office of the Vice President for Research
Collaborative Research Advancement Grants Program
Track 2: STRATEGIC TEAMS

This funding opportunity has been created to advance: 1) cross-disciplinary team research; 2) cross-disciplinary research teams with strong research concepts; and 3) extramural research grants and contracts leveraged by these seed funds. This funding opportunity specifically targets existing cross-disciplinary research teams that have prior collaborative funding success (internal and/or external funding) and would leverage additional seed funding to respond to targeted external funding opportunities. Research teams should be composed of a minimum of three collaborators, each with distinctly different professional disciplines. These disciplines do not need to reside in different Colleges, but preference will be given to teams that involve collaborations involving two or more Colleges.

For this year's solicitation, we seek applications in the following emerging areas of interest at UC: Biometrics, Energy Storage, Gene Editing, Quantum Computing, Advanced Transportation Systems, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Advanced Materials, Advanced Nanotechnologies, Artificial Intelligence and Human Machine Learning, Autonomous Systems, and Sensors Development and Applications. Investigators with interests outside of those just described are encouraged to contact the Program Manager, Dr. Phil Taylor, before submission to discuss whether the cross-disciplinary team research area would be responsive to this RFP.

Eligibility: The Principal Investigators must be UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment. Faculty from UC's affiliates (CCHMC, VA and Shriners) with joint appointments in a UC department are eligible to participate, but may not be principal investigators and are not eligible for financial support. Support for core facilities usage is encouraged, included CCHMC cores. Visiting faculty, faculty from other institutions, and researchers from industry and federal laboratories are encouraged to be part of the research teams but will not receive financial compensation. Letters of collaboration are required from external partners.

Current or past awardees (lead investigator and collaborators) from this program are ineligible to submit similar proposals to this program for a period of five years following the date of the award. Current and past awardees are encouraged to serve as collaborators with other research teams as long as it is clearly evident that the nature of the proposed research does not overlap in any substantial way with the current or previously funded research.

Review Criteria: Primary review criteria will be: 1) innovation, 2) intellectual merit, 3) demonstrated level of interaction and integration of the research team, and 4) ability to translate research results into significant extramural funding (it is understood that this level of funding will vary depending on the disciplines involved and the funding sources). Additional review criteria are: 1) broader societal impacts, 2) successful completion of proposed research and its deliverables within the allowable budget and timeframe; and 3) a research mentorship plan for junior faculty, postdoctoral associates or clinical fellows, and graduate students.

With respect to the demonstrated level of interaction and integration of the research team, each proposal submission will be reviewed by a team science specialist. The basis of their review will be *Collaboration and Team Science – A Field Guide*, a document sponsored and co-authored by the National Institutes of Health. This document can be accessed from: <http://teamscience.nih.gov>.

Additional Guidance: In addition to the Review Criteria given above, the following information is requested and will positively impact a given proposal review:

1. Stated, unique roles of each collaborator. The roles of technical specialists that operate core facilities should be described when appropriate.
2. Detailed information about targeted or future funding sources. General descriptions in this area will not be reviewed as favorably.

Budget: Proposals may request up to \$70,000 in total costs. A budget submission will be required and a link to the Excel template to be completed is provided in the proposal instructions.

Awards: Multiple awards are anticipated. The Office of Research reserves the right to disperse all or a portion of the available funds. The award period is 18 months and is anticipated to begin in May 2018.

Review and Selection Process: A panel of reviewers will be assembled to review and then meet to judge the merits of each proposal. The review process will be managed such that no conflict of interest issues arise during the review process. The review panel recommendations for funding will be made to the Program Manager and then forwarded to the Vice President for Research for final approval.

Grant Conditions:

- Two-thirds of the overall award will be dispersed at the onset of the project. The remaining funds will be dispersed in May 2019 with prior notification to the Program Manager, Dr. Phil Taylor, that at least one grant proposal has been submitted by the research team to an external funding source.
- Semi-annual project review meetings will be conducted by the Program Manager. Brief (5 pages or less) reports (at the end of month 6 and month 12) summarizing current and planned activities will be due to the Program Manager during the period of grant funding.
- Awardees will be expected to attend at least one team science workshop lead by the Center for Improvement Science, a component of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training grant.
- A draft final report is due 3 months following the contract end date. The Program Manager will provide the template for the report.
- Deliverables resulting from research efforts must acknowledge “University of Cincinnati Office of Research” funding support.
- Extensions will not be granted unless appropriately justified in writing to the Program Manager in advance of the 18-month deadline.
- Allowable costs are those outlined on the PI’s budget or as outlined in offer letter.
- These funds do not support indirect costs, graduate or undergraduate student tuition, salaries of UC Affiliates, UC faculty at the associate or full professor level, or UC administrative staff.
- The PI’s department will provide a financial report at the end of the 18-month grant period.
- All unused funds will be returned to the Office of Research at the end of the 18-month period.
- Recipients of funding from this program are expected to participate as reviewers for this program in the future.

QUESTIONS: Contact Phil Taylor: (513) 556-5308 or by email: Taylorp4@ucmail.uc.edu