

SAC Bridge Program

Program Description

Bridge grants are intended to assist faculty at all levels in maintaining their research program in the event of a funding lapse during the process of applying for competitive renewal of existing funding.

Eligibility

- All full-time Faculty at all levels (tenured, non-tenured, research track, clinical educator, Assistant; Associate; and Full Professor levels) at the Miller School of Medicine are eligible.
- Applicants must have held significant extramural funding for the proposed project, and all R-level NIH grants are eligible.
- Applicants must have applied for continued extramural funding from the same or comparable agency for the proposed studies (competitive renewal or new application intended to support the previously funded project).
- Applicants must have the summary statements of the unfunded application in-hand in order to apply for Bridge funds.
- SAC will only accept a bridge application no more than 24 months after the date of receipt ("receipt date") of the unfunded application to the funding agency. A lengthy hiatus after the initial submission may be marked by significant advances in the scientific field and the comments of the reviewers may no longer be relevant.
- Examples of considered proposals: 1) A0 renewal proposals that were reviewed but not funded and are being resubmitted as an A1 proposal. 2) A1 resubmission proposals that were not funded and are being submitted as a new A0 application.

Award Term

The funding period is one year.

Budget and Budget Justification

Bridge grant support is available for up to \$30,000. The Bridge grants are intended to be flexible and can be used to fit a variety of scientific needs, including salaries for technical personnel (*support for faculty salary and graduate student stipends are not permitted, but the percent effort can be included in the budget section 4B of the application as matching funds/cost share*), supplies, animal costs and other expenses required to conduct the proposed research. Requests to support costs of travel, conferences and small equipment are not encouraged, but will be considered on a special needs basis. Funding for personal computers and publications are not supported.

Each section within the budget should be clearly justified. ALL personnel who play a role in the research project should be listed including their percent effort (even when no salary support is being requested), a detailed description of supplies/other expenses and their costs must be included. STRONG justification should be provided if requests for travel, small equipment and/or consultant costs are sought.

SAC Internal Award budgets do not support the use of funds outside of the University of Miami, i.e., personnel costs outside of UM cannot be supported by SAC awards, but consultant costs will be considered if the specialty/need is unavailable at UM. STRONG justification for consultant costs is required and will be considered on a case by case basis. SAC expects the submitted budgets to be realistic estimates. ***Should the PI receive any extramural funds pertaining to the funded internal award during the "award term" - any unexpended funds must be returned to Office of Research, Research Education and Innovative Medicine (RIM).***

Matching Funds/Cost Share

Matching funds/cost share may come from many different categories. The most common is for the percent effort a faculty and/or graduate student will contribute on the research project being submitted. The percent effort indicated in the budget (even though salary support is not being requested) are considered matching funds/cost share. Additionally, any departmental funds or grant support for research staff, supplies, etc. are considered matching funds/cost share and should be indicated.

Review Criteria

The primary criteria used to evaluate Bridge grant applications are:

- the scientific merit of the proposed studies (importance of the problem, originality of approach, appropriateness of techniques and clarity of presentation);
- the prospect that the studies supported by SAC funding will result in successful applications for extramural funding to continue this project;
- the qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant;
- the availability of matching funds.

Progress Reporting

In order to track the success of each program, funded investigators are required to submit two reports; the first report will be a *Progress Report* due 90 days following the end of the award period; an *Annual Report* will be due one year following the end of the award period. These data are compiled and submitted to the Faculty Council, the Executive Dean for Research and Research Training, and the Dean in support of SAC's future budgetary requests.

At the completion of the award term, awardees must submit:

1. A detailed summary of research performed during the period of the award;
2. A list of grants, both submitted and funding supported by the award;
3. A bibliography of all publications, both submitted and accepted, and presentations, both posters and talks.

Application Instructions

- The application should be completed using Arial 11-point font and each page should have no less than 0.5 margins. *Be sure to adhere to the page limitations noted for each section of the application.*
- The application should be in the following sequence and numbered consecutively.
- Complete the online application including the following sections:
 - **Section 1 – Principal Investigator (PI) Information**
 - PI Last Name
 - PI First Name
 - PI Middle Initial
 - C Number
 - Rank
 - Tenure Path
 - Degrees
 - Primary Department
 - Division (if applicable)
 - E-mail Address
 - Office Phone Number
 - Cell Phone Number

- Name of Department Chair
- Name of Department Administrator (This is the post-award financial analyst that will help you manage this grant if awarded.)
- Have you received any previous Miller School UM Internal research award in the past 5 years (e.g., SAC, Dean's NIH Bridge, Glaser, CFAR, CTSI, etc.)?
- **Section 2 – Proposal Information**
 - 2A – Proposal Title
 - 2B – Has a proposal on the same topic as the present application been submitted to other funding agencies/mechanisms (external or internal)?
 - 2C – Scientific Abstract (600 word limit)
 - 2D – Total Budget Requested (The budget will be detailed in Section 4B)
 - 2D.1 – Matching Funds/Cost Share
 - 2E – Are Co-PIs Involved in this Project?
 - 2F – Request to Exclude Reviewer(s)
- **Section 3 – Regulatory Approval(s)**
 - IRB
 - IACUC
 - ESCRO
 - IBC
- **Section 4 – Research Plan**
 - 4A – Biographical Sketch for PI, each Co-PI, and Key Co-Investigators (use NIH template provided)
 - 4B – Budget and Budget Justification (Use modified NIH template)
 - 4C – The Specific Aims page(s) from the most recently submitted extramural grant submission;
 - 4D – A copy of the detailed budget from the most recently submitted extramural grant for the submitted grant;
 - 4E – Score and summary review sheets from the application that was submitted, but not funded for continued extramural funding;
 - 4F – Draft introduction to the planned extra-mural revised application (no page limit);
 - 4G – Draft specific aims page for the planned extra-mural revised application (1 page)
 - 4H – Specific Aims/Research Strategy (7 page limit) The Specific Aims and Research Strategy for the proposed experiments that will use the SAC Bridge award funds (for revisions in the body of the application, highlight significant changes by {bracketing}, changing typography, or a line in the margin.)
Required Subsections: Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and Approach
 - 4K – References Cited
 - 4L – Letters of Support (if relevant)

Questions

For questions regarding the SAC Bridge application, please contact Karen Lamper by e-mail: klamper@miami.edu or phone: (305) 243-5370.

Deadlines

SAC Applications are due on the 10th of each month (August – November; January - March) each year (should the deadline fall on a weekend; applications will be due the following business day, i.e., Monday).