

SAC Interdisciplinary Team Science (ITS) Pilot Program

Program Description

- Interdisciplinary Team Science (ITS) Pilot Program grants are intended to provide resources to assist faculty members in developing new, multi-PI research projects with an emphasis on interdisciplinary science, according to the following criteria:
 - research projects should involve the synergistic collaboration of 2 or more investigators, from different disciplines or areas of study, and
 - research projects should represent new and distinct research areas where the applicant research team has no current funding or publications, or
 - new and/or expanded direction(s) for existing research programs, where such directions are made possible by collaboration;
- The ultimate goal for the ITS Pilot Program is to facilitate the creation of new project teams who can develop new interdisciplinary research programs and obtain extramural funding for a Team Science Proposal, Program Project and/or Center grants.
- ***A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required and must be submitted and approved before a formal application will be accepted.***

Eligibility

All full-time faculty at the University of Miami, are eligible, however, at least one of the Project Directors/Lead PIs must hold a primary appointment at the Miller School of Medicine. All submissions must represent collaborative projects and include at least two (2) faculty members from different disciplines, even if from the same department or center; applicants should have a track record of independent research and successful funding at the national level.

A Project Director/Lead PI or Co-PIs must provide heavy intellectual merit that this represents an interdisciplinary project to be considered for the *ITS Pilot Program*. Multiple PDs/PIs on a project share the authority and responsibility for leading and directing the project, intellectually and logistically. A collaborator who provides a technical or limited service **will not** be considered as a Co-PI.

Award Term

The award period is one year.

Budget and Budget Justification

The ITS Pilot Program grants are intended to be flexible and can be used to fill a variety of 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.

The ITS Pilot Program grants provide the following levels of support:

- 2 Collaborative PIs can request up to \$50,000
- 3+ Collaborative PIs can request up to \$75,000

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 provided. 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.

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 SAC considers the following aspects of the application:

- the scientific merit, as well as the interdisciplinary approach, 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;
- the qualifications, experience and productivity of the collaborators; and
- the availability of matching funds.

Progress Reporting

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; **Annual Report** will be due one year following the end of the award period.

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 funded supported by the award;
3. A bibliography of all publications, both submitted and accepted, and presentations, both posters and talks; and
4. Applicants must commit to submitting an external funding proposal for the ITS Project within 12 months after the award terminates. A copy of the external application must be submitted to the Miller Office of Research and Innovative Medicine.

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.

Application Instructions

- The application pages should be completed using Arial 11-point font and each page should have no less than 0.5 inch margins. *Be sure to adhere to the page limitations noted for each section of the application.*
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- 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 provided)
 - 4C – Introduction to Application/Response to Reviewers (Resubmissions only, no page limit)
 - 4D – Specific Aims and Research Strategy (7 page limit, 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*
 - 4E – Leadership Plan (1 page limit), Describe the rationale for choosing a multiple-PD/PI approach. Explain how each PI is from a different discipline, contributes to the study, and how the proposed collaboration empowers a new study not possible otherwise. Describe the governance and organizational structure of the leadership team and the research project, including communication plans, process for making decisions on scientific direction, and procedures for resolving conflicts. Delineate the PD/PIs roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project or program, including responsibilities for human or live vertebrate animal subject studies as appropriate.
 - 4F – Proposed submission dates for external funding proposal. Identify the funding agency, funding mechanism (RFA, PA, etc.) and submission dates to which you commit to apply. Provide a brief description of the funding mechanism, in the case of an RFA or PA provide a short synopsis of the purpose of the RFA or PA.
 - 4G – Extra-mural Project Description and Specific Aims. Describe how the ITS study will impact the submission of a new grant application, including strategic planning for pursuing extramural funding (sources, funding mechanism) an outline of how the data

generated with the ITS Pilot Program will support the provisional specific aims of the future grant application. Provide a draft specific aims page of the future grant application (1 page).

4H – References Cited

4I – Letters of Support (*if relevant*)

Questions

For questions and/or guidance, please contact Ms. Karen Lamper at klamper@miami.edu or (305) 243-5370.

Deadlines

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required and must be submitted and approved before a formal application will be accepted. Once approved, ITS Pilot projects are reviewed on a monthly basis. Completed applications must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the review (August – November; January - March) each year (should the deadline fall on a weekend; applications will be due the following business day, i.e., Monday).