SAC Pilot Awards

Program Description

Pilot grants are intended to assist faculty in jump starting new research areas including:

➢ new and distinct research areas where the applicant has no existing funding or publications

➢ new direction(s) for the existing research program where the applicant has past experience but no current funding

Eligibility

All full-time faculty at the Miller School of Medicine are eligible. Junior faculty who are within the first three (3) years of their initial faculty appointment at the Miller School are encouraged to apply.

Award Term

The funding period is one year.

Budget and Budget Justification

Pilot project support is available for up to $25,000. The Pilot 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). Include a detailed description of supplies/other expenses and their costs. 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 that will support completing the project as proposed within one year.

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

SAC considers the following aspects of the application:

o the scientific merit of the proposed studies (importance of the problem, originality of approach, appropriateness of techniques and clarity of presentation)

o the prospect that the studies supported by SAC funding will result in successful applications for extramural funding

o the qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant

o the availability of matching funds/cost share

Progress Reporting

In order to track the success of each program, funded investigators are required to submit two reports to track the outcomes of the funded proposal. 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, Research Training, and Innovative Medicine as well as 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.*
- 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 – 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.

4F – Extra-mural Project Description and Specific Aims. Describe how the pilot 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 SAC 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).

4G – References Cited

4H – Letters of Support (if relevant)

Questions

For questions regarding the SAC Pilot 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).