

The Elmer R. Pfefferkorn & Allan U. Munck Education and Research Fund
Novel and Interactive Grant Initiative (Year 2)
(aka. -The Munck-Pfefferkorn Fund, or The M-P Grants)

Letter of Intent Deadline: December 5, 2016
Submission Deadline: January 2, 2017
Funds to be awarded beginning February 1, 2017

Background

Established with proceeds from the sale of owned Medarex stock, the Munck-Pfefferkorn Education and Research Fund was created to support research and education initiatives within the Geisel School of Medicine, particularly those with a high potential to generate future revenue through grants or entrepreneurial endeavors. In June 2015, Dean Compton convened a faculty committee (the Committee) to advise how to best use these funds. The outcome, M-P Grants, are designed to provide significant support for the research initiatives deemed most likely to foster faculty interactions that will lead to novel biomedical advances and have the potential for generating ongoing support of Geisel research. After consideration, eight applications were funded in the fall of 2015 (total awarded funding of \$1.2M). For this second round of funding, we anticipate an additional \$1M in funding will be made available.

Guidelines for Applying for Munck-Pfefferkorn Research Funding

GENERAL GUIDELINES

This second round of M-P Grant awards is intended to provide significant funding for several research projects that have very high potential to lead to future sponsored projects or programs funded by the NIH (e.g. SBIR, STTR, PO1, and RO1 awards), foundations, industry, etc., and which encourage collaborations among Geisel faculty most likely to generate innovative discoveries that will be of benefit to the broader population. The principal investigators should have a track record of success and a clear vision for how these funds will support fruitful initiatives. Special consideration will be given where no other obvious funding mechanism exists, and when projects aim toward the development of a new marketable technology for which there are significant unmet needs, especially as it relates to the potential development of therapeutics and diagnostics or other significant novel discoveries. Such activities may include proposals for creative research projects, entrepreneurial endeavors, shared equipment and facilities, and to leverage other funding opportunities.

There is no set dollar-limit on the amount that may be requested by an applicant. It is expected that projects funded by this mechanism will commence immediately upon notice of award and will occur during the upcoming calendar year. Support beyond the amount initially funded and beyond one calendar year shall be contingent upon the attainment of stated and approved milestones.

Through this vehicle, Geisel faculty members are encouraged to collaborate within as well as across departments and across the College more broadly; to develop proposals for new research projects, entrepreneurial endeavors, shared equipment and facilities; and to leverage other funding opportunities whenever possible. *Note that the goal of the Fund is to be catalytic and supportive for Geisel research efforts. Therefore, if proposals involve other institutions, they must state clearly the benefits that are expected to accrue to Geisel/Dartmouth from the proposed collaboration.*

ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITY CRITERIA

1. At least one applicant must have a primary appointment in a Geisel academic department, but proposals that involve more than one faculty member are encouraged, and may include collaborations with other institutions, with the proviso noted above.
2. Requests may be for pilot funds to start a new project/effort, to creatively build on existing strengths, or to connect areas of excellence that can lead to PO1 funding. *However, requests for a project/effort leading to a faculty member's first NIH R01 or equivalent, or bridging funds (to cover an intermittent shortfall in grant funding or pre-award funding) are discouraged.*
3. Proposals that include some matching funds from another source are encouraged and will be prioritized accordingly, including departmental or other School (Thayer/A&S/Tuck) matching funds and/or industry or other collaborating partner funding.
4. Proposals that include support for the development or integration of junior faculty research efforts and those that generate matching funding or leverage outside funding opportunities are encouraged.
5. There is no departmental limit on the number of proposals that can be submitted. Geisel faculty may also be included on multiple submissions, and again, the association of multiple faculty with a research proposal is encouraged.
6. A letter of intent is recommended but not mandatory. This letter should — on no more than a single 11pt font single-spaced page — list the PI and other faculty participants, a descriptive title for the proposal, and a brief description of the rationale for the studies proposed. This will aid the committee in identifying potential reviewers in order to expedite the review process.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Proposals (*typewritten, font of 11pt or greater*) should include:

- 1) Letter of intent as described above (recommended, but not mandatory);
- 2) Project Plan (up to 3 pages total) including:
 - a) Title and participating faculty/departments;
 - b) Project Summary (1 paragraph): A description of the project; the scientific need/objectives/aims addressed by the proposal; milestones and timeline for achievement; benefits and potential downstream funding support that is expected to arise out of this project;
 - c) Project Description (~2 pages): A detailed description of the proposed project including product/technology development milestones and a plan for intellectual property, if relevant. In addition, proposals should address all anticipated infrastructure needs, including any incremental IT resources and/or space requirements and how those requirements will be met.
- 3) Project budget (1 page or less): Describe how the funds will be used in support of the project (including details around salary support and non-compensation expenditures), and a discussion of plans for long term support and sustainability. Please also describe previous or concurrent requests to other funding sources, or committed matching funds in support of the project.
- 4) Bio-sketch for PI and affiliated faculty (NIH style).
- 5) Letter of support from the Chair(s) of the participating faculty member's department(s).
- 6) Of particular note, precedence will be given to proposals with strong translational potential and that are most likely to lead to prevention, diagnostics and therapeutics with significant benefit to the human population. It should be noted if patent protection is in progress, or if assistance in seeking patent protection is needed.

AWARD PROCESS AND INFORMATION

Proposals will be reviewed by the Committee in January 2017, with recommendations for funding made to the Dean's Office. Funded projects (awards) will be announced and funds made available beginning in February 2017. Note that the Committee may also solicit feedback and comments from other faculty members as part of the evaluation of individual proposals. Moreover, faculty submitting proposals that are deemed to have the highest priority may be asked to respond to comments/questions and/or present their proposal to the Committee.

Proposals will be prioritized for funding based on the Committee's assessment of the potential for the proposed activity to catalyze on-going funded research at Geisel, the ability to generate new entrepreneurial opportunities and increase international recognition of excellence for the School and our faculty, and increased collaboration across the institution (Geisel/Dartmouth).

Proposals for Committee review should be submitted to Wes Benbow at Wesley.A.Benbow@Dartmouth.edu by January 2, 2017; optional letters of intent by December 5, 2016. Questions regarding the application and process should also be directed to Wes Benbow.

Awardees will be required to submit intermittent progress reports on or before September 1, 2017, and achieve established milestones to ensure that specified objectives are met for full support. It will be expected that projects funded by this application will commence at the beginning of February 2017 unless another start date is otherwise approved by the Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Charlie Barlowe, Chair and Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology
Wes Benbow, Executive Dean for Administration and Finance (*non-voting*)
Mike Fanger, Active Emeritus Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
Paul Guyre, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
Deborah Hogan, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
Margaret Karagas, James W. Squires Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology