

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2024

January 16, 2024

The Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute at Clemson University is pleased to announce a call for proposals for our 8th annual seed grants program.



The purpose of these seed grants is to support collaborations that accelerate Clemson faculty members' ability to address significant scientific and societal problems associated with and improve the human condition through, sports broadly defined. The ideal outcome is to achieve nationally and internationally recognized research programs with external funding, significant awards, or scientific products. These efforts should support key areas that align with the Clemson Elevate strategic plan. However, it should be noted that these areas are for guidance only. Strong submissions that do not fall directly within these areas will also be considered.

A major goal of the seed grants program is to increase research productivity as evidenced by the submission of significant external research proposals, the receipt of significant research awards, and the production of scientific publications or other research products that bring national prominence to the Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute and also demonstrate the capability of merging athletics and academics.

As such, proposals should clearly identify the primary outcome as it relates to achieving these broad and ambitious goals. It is well understood that a firm theoretical and organizational foundation must exist for competitive multi-disciplinary, and perhaps multi-institutional, proposals. Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute seed grant funding is intended to serve as a catalyst to move selected projects to a point that makes them highly competitive submissions for future external funding and/or impact. By the nature of the targeted funding, successful proposals will likely include multiple faculty members and/or students, multiple disciplines, and perhaps researchers and participants from other institutions. Multi-institutional efforts will be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the proposal submission. Proposals with both academic and athletic department research team members, including students and student-athletes, will receive additional consideration.

The selection criteria for the grants are primarily based on the potential to deliver significant research outcomes that press the frontiers of science in the broad area of sports, address major sports and societal issues, and stand to improve the human condition in the context of sports, again, broadly defined. In general, proposals will be limited to funding of \$30,000 or less, but preference will be given to those which show significant possibility of major future awards or impact (in the >\$1million category). Additionally, researchers who received funding from this program in the preceding year, are not likely to receive the same level of consideration for current proposals as the goal of the program is to fund a wide diversity of projects and researchers.

Successful grant recipients will be required to:

- 1) Provide a short public narrative summarizing their work for distribution and advertising.

- 2) Attend one RHBSSI bi-annual meeting to present a summary of their work.
- 3) Participate in a local annual research symposium of all RHBSSI awardees (pending).
- 4) Apply for consideration to be a RHBSSI faculty fellow.
- 5) Provide an annual report of work progress to continue funding.

The grant submission and review process will be coordinated by representatives of the Deans of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences; Business; and Engineering, Computing, and Applied Sciences; and the Director of Athletics, with assistance from blind reviewers from across the institution or outside, as appropriate.

Given the expected interdisciplinary nature of the reviewers, which reflects the typical grant review panel, it is important that the proposals be written in a conversational manner targeted at scientist reviewers who may have a working knowledge of the field, but not be experts in the proposed research area.

Keys to successful proposals are:

1. No more than the 3-page proposals, plus budget. Additional information, letters of support, etc. will not be considered.
2. Potential for highest quality social and scientific research
3. Potential for great impact
 - a. Future funding
 - b. Impact on understanding sports-related social and scientific issues
 - c. Recognition and enhanced visibility to Clemson University
4. Inclusion of both academic and athletic professionals, involvement, and context
5. Likelihood of successful, on-time, completion

Eligible uses of funds: Funding may be used for a variety of activities including, but not limited to:

- Graduate stipends
- Software, equipment or facility access to acquire key data
- Database access and/or development
- Travel to engage program managers or to meet with collaborators from other institutions to work on proposal planning, or other travel required to present research and/or achieve successful outcomes
- Research subject stipends
- Journal submission fees and other publication costs
- This funding is NOT intended for faculty salaries

Funds will be available to successful Principal Investigators with no F&A or GAD costs. Cost-share by departments, such as additional funds, instrument time, release time, or student support, is encouraged but not required. If departmental cost-share is included, please explain what is being provided and the chart string to be used in the budget justification section.

Submission of proposals: Applicants should submit a 3-page proposal that includes:

1. Description of the project;

2. Description of the project team;
3. Statement of need for the project;
4. Methods to be used;
5. Timeline for project completion; and
6. Budget with justification. Project proposal requests should NOT exceed \$30,000. Budgets should be planned according to project needs, and not to reach the \$30,000 ceiling. In cases where the budget ceiling is clearly the target, and not the money needed to successfully complete the proposed work, proposals scores will be down rated.

Principal Investigators must work with their college-sponsored programs support center to submit their proposals through the InfoEd portal in accordance with college-sponsored programs support center procedures to Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute.

NEW Requirement: If the proposal requires the use of Clemson University Athletics Department resources, e.g., student-athlete participation, facility use, or sponsorship, Principal Investigators are required to submit a Request for Athletic Department Participation in Research form as part of the InfoEd approval process.

Finalists may be required to make a brief (5 minute) presentation to the review panel outlining the proposed project.

Deadline for Submission: March 29, 2024
Funding Available approximately August 2024

All applicable Research Compliance reviews (such as Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and so forth) found at <http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/> must be completed by all awardees prior to the release of funds.

Questions about the rationale and practical matters related to this grants program can be directed to the Associate Dean for Research (College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences), Dr. Bryan Miller (BLM2@clemson.edu) and/or Associate Dean for Research (College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences), Dr. Daniel Noneaker (dnoneak@clemson.edu). For budgeting assistance, please contact your college-sponsored programs support center. This is particularly important in cases that involve institutions outside of Clemson University.

Respectfully and Go Tigers,



Brett A. Wright, Ph.D.
Founding Director



John DesJardins, Ph.D.
Interim Director