CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Transformative Research Seed Grant Awards 2019-2020

DEADLINE: November 11, 2019 at 4:00 pm (EST)

The Health Sciences Center (HSC) at Prisma Health announces a Call for Transformative Research Seed Grant applications supporting research that improves health. Projects should focus on improvement of health system performance, population health, or biomedical science that translates to clinical practice and improved patient outcomes.

The research goal of the Health Sciences Center is to lead life changing health services research that aligns with the purpose statement of Prisma Health to:

- **Inspire health** (promoting wellness; preventing health problems; identifying risks early)
- **Serve with compassion** (patient centered care that is readily accessible, of high quality and lowest cost that does no harm)
- **Be the difference** (innovative and transformative treatment models)

**Purpose and Criteria**

**Overview:** The Transformative Research Seed Grant initiative facilitates pilot research and scholarly activities supporting the research goals and priorities of the Health Sciences Center (HSC). Pilot projects may compete for funds not exceeding $20,000. Transformative Research Seed Grant recipients are required to disseminate their work locally, regionally and/or nationally. Funded investigators are additionally required to subsequently submit an extramural grant application informed by seed grant study findings as soon as feasible after completing the project (ideally within 6 months of the project end date).

**Funding:** Seed Grants are supported through funding from HSC partners including Prisma Health, the Clemson University School of Health Research, the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine and other academic partners.

**Eligibility:** All applications must include an investigative partnership between one or more Health Sciences Center primary partners (Prisma Health, Clemson, University of South Carolina, and Furman) and a clinical collaborator from Prisma Health.

Previous awardees of the Research Seed Grant program are eligible to apply for funding if: (1) the applicant satisfactorily completed the previously funded work; and, (2) the current proposal is conceptually distinct from their previously funded proposal, or, more rarely, extends that work conceptually per findings from the previously funded study. A project that proposes to increase the sample size for a previously funded project would not meet this eligibility criterion.
Applicant Agreement:

Principal Investigators accepting an HSC Research Seed Grant agree to the following:

- Secure Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (or exemption) prior to receipt of any award dollars, or the initiation of project-related work;
- Spend award dollars only on the proposed research-related activities specified in the budget;
- Submit a final report within 30 days of project end date
- Disseminate findings, with at least one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed health sciences journal
- Apply to present a poster at the HSC Research Showcase
- Submit an extramural grant application informed by seed grant study findings as soon as feasible after completing the project (ideally within 6 months of the project end date).
- Acknowledge funding support from the Health Sciences Center and notify the HSC if publication results from grant funded work

Failure to meet these expectations will disqualify researchers from future funding from the Transformative Research Seed Grant program and may result in recall of funds.

Period of Support: The committee will award support for a maximum of 12 months from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021.

Funding Range: Applicants may request a funding amount up to $20,000. Applicants may cite matching funds from their respective units or from other sources, but cost-share is not required.

Allowable Expenditures: Allowable expenditures include participant incentives, equipment, project supplies, pilot data collection, research-related travel (up to 10% of total budget), publication fees, contract and user fees. Travel funding may be used to facilitate meetings between HSC collaborators. Applicants must fully justify requests for electronic equipment and travel to conferences and presentations. This award does not support indirect costs or full-time tenure track faculty salary, but may be used for consultants, research staff, post-doctoral fellow or other research assistant support including graduate students and undergraduate students from HSC partner institutions. The proposed budget should not include items typically covered by departmental support for active researchers, travel unrelated to proposal development, or to bridge a funding gap between grants.

Selection Process
Only fully complete applications will be considered for funding.

Scoring Criteria: Projects will be scored (1-9) in the following categories:

- Significance: Will the project advance the field and fit the Prisma Health mission to improve health through science?
- Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions?
● Approach and Feasibility: Are the overall strategy, methodology and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?

● Investigators: Does the investigative team have the requisite background, training, and relationship and access to carry out the goals of the project?

● Overall impact: The likelihood that the project will have a sustained powerful influence on the research field involved?

Consistent with Prisma Health’s investment in patient-centered outcomes research, applications that are informed by Prisma Health’s Patient Engagement Studio when appropriate are strongly encouraged. The Studio employs patients as partners in research development. Their personal experience may inform hypothesis generation, study design/implementation, data interpretation, and result interpretation. (Budgetary Note: Patient Engagement Studio fees will be waived for Seed Grant recipients. Subsequent extramural application budgets should include Studio fees.)

**Application, Formatting, and Submission Instructions**

The receipt deadline for applications is *Monday, November 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm (EST)*.

1. Principal Investigators should notify their institution’s sponsored programs/grants office regarding their intent to submit this application.
2. Complete the required information in Sections 1-6 of the Application Package.
   a. Use single-spacing and 11-point Arial font with 1-inch margins.
   b. Letters of Support are required only if they reference specific additional financial support for the project. If general letters of support are included, they should total no more than three pages.
3. Save the application as a single PDF and name it as follows: [Principal Investigator’s last name]_Evaluation Seed Grant Application. Type the file name into the email subject line. Email the PDF to the Prisma Health Office of Sponsored Programs: Grants@prismahealth.org.
4. Applications received after the Monday, November 11, 2019, 4:00 p.m. deadline will be deemed not responsive and will not be reviewed.
   a. Patient Engagement Studio website  [https://hsc.ghs.org/pes/](https://hsc.ghs.org/pes/)
Application Cover Page

Application Title:

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Name/Title of Additional Co-Investigators

Institution and Academic/Clinical Department

1. **Abstract** – 250 word maximum
2. **Research Plan** – *limited to five pages maximum* *

Research Plan should be organized as follows:

*Significance*: Explain how the proposed research project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more areas to improve health outcomes.

*Innovation and Impact*: Present the relevant literature, including any preliminary studies germane to your goals and hypotheses. Identify the conceptual basis or theoretical model for the proposed research.

*Approach*: Summarize the methods, procedures, and activities that will be undertaken in this seed grant, including any use of the Patient Engagement Studio.

*Feasibility*: Explain why it will be feasible to conduct the study in a standard clinical setting (where applicable) without disrupting patient care or compromising confidentiality or patient safety. Describe capacity of research team, including relationships and access, for successful completion of the project.

*References are separate and are not included in the page limit.*

3. **Biosketch**

A 1-3 page document for relevant investigators demonstrating experience and ability to successfully complete the proposed project (can utilize NIH or NSF Biosketch format or investigator preference).
4. **Budget**  *To which HSC partner institution will funds be allocated? If more than one partner will receive funding, please use this column.*

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<th>Other Personnel Name (or TBD)</th>
<th>Project Role</th>
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**Subtotal for Other Personnel**

**Travel**

**Equipment (over $2,000 per unit)**

**Materials and Supplies**

**Consultants/Contractors**

**Patient Support Costs**

**Other Expenses (Itemize by Category)**

**Total Costs for Budget Period**
5. **Budget Justification** – 200 word maximum

Describe how each budget item supports the proposed research activities. Electronic devices, equipment, and conference travel should be well justified.

6. **Plan for Extramural Research Grant Application Submission** – 200 word maximum

Describe the anticipated extramural grant application(s), including specific target agency or agencies, projected submission date, and plan for the development of the full application. Extramural applications must be submitted within 6 months after the project end date.
Do You Have Questions About Your Seed Grant Research Project?
(Health Sciences Center Resources)

Data Planning, Access and Analysis
Alex Ewing, Senior Biostatistician and Data Support Core Director
Alex.Ewing@prismahealth.org, 864-455-1130
For individual consultation regarding data to answer the research question (design, data access and analysis)

Moonsong Heo, Professor of Public Health Sciences
mheo@clemson.edu
For advanced consultation regarding data analysis

Data Support Core
The Clemson University School of Health Research is supporting three graduate assistants in the Health Sciences Center to assist researchers. JJ Niu, Li He, and Xiyan Tan are serving in the Data Support Core and are available to help those conducting research in the HSC. Consultation from the Data Support Core may also be helpful to determine sample sizes, populations, etc. so that data analysis can be more successful. The Data Support Core is available to all HSC researchers. To set up a meeting with the Data Support Core, please contact Kimbell Dobbins at kimbelv@clemson.edu

Project Design and Budget
Research Consultation Group
The Research Consultation Group is a research resource designed to optimize scholarly activity by providing guidance and expertise for both beginner and advanced researchers engaged in all phases of the research process. This consultative group is a resource to assist with study design, methodology, clinical question development, study feasibility, etc. To set up a meeting with the group, please contact Kimbell Dobbins at kimbelv@clemson.edu

Patient Engagement Studio
The Patient Engagement Studio (PES) is a resource for the Health Sciences Center providing consultation services for researchers interested in getting input on their work from patients, caregivers, health care providers, community members and other non-researcher stakeholders.

How does it work? There is a 3-step process for working with the Studio. 1) A pre-meeting and/or email discussion with the Studio leadership to determine presentation day and time (meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1:30) and a review of the presentation prior to the presentation date for format and patient-centeredness; 2) a 45-minute presentation/discussion with the Studio members in which the PI must be present, the Studio Board members include: scientists, academic physicians, a Patient Experience expert, and 8-12 patient partners (“experts”); 3) A written report based on feedback during the Studio session is provided within 3 weeks of presentation date. Diagnostic-specific studios may also be developed as research needs demand. How can I participate? Any member of the Prisma Health-Upstate, Furman University, Clemson University, or the University of South Carolina may submit a project for review by emailing the Studio Director, Ann Blair Kennedy, DrPH (kenneda5@greenvillemed.sc.edu) or apply online at http://hsc.ghs.org/pes

Human Research Subjects Protection (IRB):
Janice Piazza, Director OHRP
Janice.Piazza@prismahealth.org, 864-455-6607
For questions and consultation in preparation of an IRB submission

Budget Development:
Claire Stam Office of Sponsored Programs
Claire.Stam@prismahealth.org, 864-455-1121
For proposal and budget consultation

Transformative Research Seed Grant Application 2019-2020
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