

The Elmer R. Pfefferkorn & Allan U. Munck Education and Research Fund
Novel and Interactive Grant Initiative (5th Funding Cycle)
(aka. -The Munck-Pfefferkorn Fund, or The M-P Grants)

Submission Deadline April 30, 2021
Funds to be awarded beginning July 1, 2021

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. Over the first four cycles, \$3.1M was awarded across 30 funded proposals. For this next funding cycle, we anticipate an additional \$400,000 will be made available to support meritorious projects involving Geisel faculty.

Guidelines for Applying for Munck-Pfefferkorn Research Funding

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The M-P Grant awards are intended to provide seed funding for 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 people. As intended, many of the projects across the initial funding cycles have led to subsequent funded NIH and NSF grant applications, a graduate student fellowship, 6 patent filings and over 30 peer-reviewed papers.

The principal investigators on submitted proposals should have a track record of success in securing extramural support for their research programs 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 also include proposals for creative research projects, entrepreneurial endeavors, shared equipment and facilities, and to leverage other funding opportunities.

In order to maximize the number of proposals funded, the Committee has set a maximal funding amount of \$100,000 for each proposal. It is expected that projects funded by this mechanism will commence immediately upon notice of award (expected to be awarded on July 1, 2021) and will be completed within 12-months of the date of award. Support beyond the amount initially funded and requests for additional support beyond the initial award year shall be contingent upon the attainment of stated and approved milestones, the availability of funding, and approval of the Dean. It is also expected for awarded projects, that significant delays or material changes in project teams (e.g. PI, co-investigators) occur, that such matters will be brought to the Committee's attention as soon as possible.

Through this vehicle, Geisel faculty members, including those appointed in clinical departments at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, 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.

An important review criterion is the potential to catalyze research efforts of Geisel-appointed faculty that have promise in terms of providing returns to Geisel/Dartmouth. Proposals should state clearly the benefits that are expected to accrue from the proposed collaboration.

ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITY CRITERIA

1. At least one investigator on the application must have a primary faculty appointment in a Geisel foundational science department. Geisel's foundational science departments include Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Biomedical Data Science, Epidemiology, Microbiology & Immunology, Molecular & Systems Biology and the Dartmouth Institute. For applications spanning other institutions (e.g. D-H, A&S, Thayer), the review committee expects that the inclusion of a foundational department faculty member shall reflect more than a token contribution to the project, and that their role and contribution(s) shall be clearly described and associated with accomplishing scientific aims established therein.
2. Proposals that involve more than one faculty member and multiple departments are strongly encouraged and may include collaborations with colleagues at other institutions with the provisos noted in the General Guidelines. Note as well, research scientists with a Geisel appointment may serve as principal investigator or co-investigator with the support of the chairperson of their appointing department.
3. 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 to provide bridging funds (to cover an intermittent shortfall in grant funding or pre-award funding) are discouraged.*
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. It is strongly encouraged that proposals include committed funds from another source, and this will be prioritized. Potential for sources for matching funds include Departmental, Program, Hitchcock Foundation, Center or other School (Thayer/A&S/Tuck) funds and/or industry or other collaborating partner funding. Note that matching fund commitments should not include faculty salary support drawn from subvention or other institutional support. Note as well, it is the expectation that matching funds will be drawn concomitantly with M-P funding support, and that M-P funds will not be prioritized as the first dollar expended in service of the project.
6. As these are institutionally funded awards, facilities and administrative (F&A, a.k.a. indirects) costs are not permitted within submitted budgets and will not be considered in evaluating matching funding commitments).
7. 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.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

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

1. 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.
2. Project budget (1 page): 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. Note: Budgets should not provide for compensation support for Dartmouth employed faculty members who receive material levels of support for their compensation from the School (e.g. annual subvention support at 25% or more). Budget narratives should also describe previous or concurrent requests to other funding sources, and/or committed matching research funds in support of the project;
3. Biosketch for PI and affiliated faculty (NIH style).
4. Letter of support from the Chair(s) of the participating faculty member's department(s).
5. Of note, precedence will be given to proposals with strong translational potential and that are most likely to lead to diagnostics and therapeutics with significant benefit to humans. 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 beginning in early April 2021, with recommendations for funding made to the Dean. Funded projects (awards) will be announced and funds made available beginning on or around July 1, 2021. Note that the Committee may also solicit feedback and comment 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 by April 30, 2021. All questions regarding the proposal and process should be directed to Nathan Smith at nathan.a.smith@dartmouth.edu.

Awardees will be required to submit a progress report on or before December 31, 2021 demonstrating that specified objectives are being met, and milestones sufficient to warrant continued support have been achieved. As stated above, it is expected that projects funded by this application will commence immediately upon notice of award unless another start date is otherwise approved by the Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Charlie Barlowe, James C. Chilcott '20 Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chair and Professor,
Department of Biochemistry & and Cell Biology

Wes Benbow, Executive Dean for Administration and Finance (*non-voting*)

Jay Dunlap, Nathan Smith Professor, Professor of Molecular & Systems Biology and of Biochemistry &
Cell Biology

Paul Guyre, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology

Anne Hoen, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and of Biomedical Data Science and Microbiology &
Immunology

Deborah Hogan, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology