Guidelines for submitting a request for Bridge Funding to the VCU School of Medicine

Purpose

In its efforts to enhance its research mission and support its faculty, the School of Medicine is pleased to provide bridge funding for successful investigators who experience a lapse in NIH or other federal support. Bridge funding is temporary and specifically targeted to allow investigators time to respond to critiques of applications that have been favorably reviewed, but not funded.

Eligibility

Bridge funding applications will be accepted from investigators who meet the following criteria:

- The applicant is a full-time member of the School of Medicine faculty.
- The applicant is principal investigator of an NIH RO1, P01/U19 or similar award that has ended or is soon to end, and has submitted a new or renewal application that has been reviewed but not funded;

   OR

   The applicant is principal investigator of an R21, K23/K08/K01, or similar award that has ended or is soon to end and, based on data from their prior award, has applied for an R01, P01/U19 or similar award from the NIH that has been reviewed but not funded.

- The applicant is likely to be able to submit a more competitive application within one year after receipt.
- The applicant has demonstrated continued productivity in peer-reviewed publications.

Please review complete funding and application requirements before submitting your application. You can find this information on the VCU SOM Research Website or by downloading the pdf file below.

Award Terms

- Budgets up to $50,000 will be considered by the review committee. Details and justification should be provided. Under special circumstances, expanded budgets will be considered.
- Bridge funding is provided for up to one year and can begin any time after the funding request is approved or as specified in the award letter.
- Award funds may be used for services, animals, supplies and salary for key personnel associated with the research project. Indirect costs are not provided. The salary and time commitment of the principal investigator must be supported by the department. Departments also are encouraged to provide additional support for the applicant.
- If external funding is received prior to the end of the bridge grant's duration, unexpended funds will be returned to the School of Medicine.

Application

Applications must be submitted online and consist of the following components:

- Letter of endorsement from the department chair indicating that the applicant's salary and research time will be protected by the department and detailing any other investment the department will make toward this research to support key laboratory personnel, animals or supplies as required.
- Letter from the PI that details the following:
  - Current research and funding situation (two-page limit)
  - Plans for future funding (one-page limit)
  - A budget indicating the funds requested and how they'll be used (one-page limit)
  - A budget justification and explanation as to how these funds will help secure external support (one-page limit)
- Complete CV, including current and pending grants
- Copy of current or most recent grant application(s)
- Copy of critique(s) of applicant's most recently reviewed grant submission(s)
- Copies of any other pertinent correspondence relating to the grant application

Submit application materials electronically by using the link provided on [SOM Research Website](#) or clicking on the following URL:
https://redcap.vcu.edu/surveys/?s=DXATKKED9YJLNDXP

Review and funding

A standing review committee of senior faculty members will promptly review the material and make a recommendation to the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Research Training. After reviewing the recommendation, the Senior Associate Dean will discuss the application with the Dean, who will make the final funding decision. Applicants will be notified in writing by the Dean.