REQUEST FOR APPLICATION: BRIDGE FUNDING PROGRAM
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA HEALTH SCIENCES

The Offices of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences (SVPHS) and Deans of the Colleges (Medicine-Tucson, Medicine-Phoenix, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Public Health) have developed a program to provide bridge funding to support faculty at UAHS to span the gap in innovative and significant research projects. The UAHS Bridge Funding Program, which is established and administered by the SVPHS Office, is intended to bridge funds to minimize disruption of existing research projects that have temporarily lost external funding but show high promise of success in the next round of competitive review.

1. Eligibility Criteria

Applications will be accepted from faculty who hold a regular and primary appointment (i.e., tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track research and clinical faculty) in the COM (Tucson and Phoenix). New faculty must begin their appointment by the start date of the grant.

- Applicants must show evidence of an independent research program and have no current major funding (e.g., NIH-R01, P01, U01; NSF; DOD; VA Merit Review Award).
- Applicants must have applied for renewal (or foundation funding) in support of this project (i.e., pending grant application) and received a score from the major funding agency (e.g., a scored competitive renewal application for NIH-R01 grant).
- Applicants must have shown consistent research productivity during the past and current years.

2. Award

- Bridge Funding cannot be used for faculty’s salary but allowed for salary support of lab research personnel or study coordinators, lab supplies, animals, equipment, and service contracts.
- The maximal award for Bridge Funding is not to exceed $6,000/month for 12 months ($72,000/year). The funds will be provided to the awardee by the Office of SVPHS, the Office of the Dean, and the Office of the Chair (of the awardee’s home college and department).
- Only one award per investigator will be provided within a five-year period.
- The support will be provided monthly, for a maximum of one year, and end at the start of any renewed or new funding. The SVPHS/Dean Offices anticipate supporting up to 5 investigators for Bridge Funding in each year in 2016 and 2017.
- If the applicant misses the deadline for grant resubmission as stated in the application, Bridge Funding may be withdrawn, and a written explanation will be required.
• If the applicant receives major external funding from any sources (e.g., NIH, NSF, NASA, DOD, VA), the remaining Bridge Funding will be returned to the SVPHS Office immediately.

3. Evaluation Criteria
• Likelihood to obtain major external funding in the near future.
• Priority score and percentile score of the renewal application.
• Scientific soundness of the research project in the renewal application.
• Research productivity of the applicant.
• Contribution of the applicant to the UAHS' mission for teaching, research and service.

The priority will be given to investigators with expired NIH funding who have a favorable probability to renew the major external funding.

4. Application Procedure
• Submit a brief letter (1 page) to the Office of SVPHS describing the reason for the request (and benefits of the funding to the Department and the College).
• Documentation of relevant grant scores, grant review comments (and current pay-line information of the funding agency).
• “Other Support” information including current, pending and past grants. The investigator who has a current major grant (e.g., NIH R01) is not qualified to receive Bridge Funding.
• A copy of latest CV
• A copy of the entire pending grant application
• Please consolidate all documents (except the pending grant application) into one PDF file and submit the application package (along with the pending grant application) electronically to Randi Jo Whittemore (rjw@email.arizona.edu).

The deadlines for application: July 1, 2016

If you have any questions about the Bridge Funding Program, please contact Randi Jo Whittemore (rjw@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-0787).

Review Criteria for Bridge Funding Applications
1. Investigator (1-5)
   • PI’s research productivity and track record
   • PI’s current research activity
2. Likelihood to obtain major funding (e.g., NIH R01, VA Merit Review) (1-5)
   • Priority score and percentile score of the renewal application
• PI’s past and current funding record
• Possibility to achieve a fundable score in the next cycle/year

3. Significance and Novelty of the Project/Application (1-5)
• Scientific soundness of the research project in the renewal application
• Whether the proposal addresses an important question
• Whether the proposal has a conceptually novel idea/hypothesis

Please give a score (1 to 5; 1 being the best and 5 the worst) in each of the aforementioned categories (Investigator, Likelihood, Significance/Novelty, and Feasibility) to each application. The overall score of an application is the average of the scores you give to each category for the application.

Score range:
1. Outstanding
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Average
5. Problematic

Review Committee for Bridge Funding Applications (Tentative)

1. Carol A. Barnes, PhD, Regents’ Professor, Departments of Neuroscience and Neurology, COS, COM
2. Jeffrey L. Burgess, MD, Professor, Division of Community, Environment and Policy, COPH
3. Anne E. Cress, PhD, Professor and Deputy Dean for Research, COM
4. Andrew Kraft, MD, Professor and Director, the UA Cancer Center, COM
5. Fernando Martinez, MD, Regents’ Professor, Department of Pediatrics, COM
6. Mark “Marty” Pagel, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medical Imaging, COM
7. Frank Porreca, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology, COM
8. Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD, Professor and Associate VP, Department of Medicine, COM
9. Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Associate Dean for Research, CON
10. Jil C. Tardif, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Medicine, COM
11. Jason Yuan, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Medicine, COM
12. Donna Zhang, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, COP