

## **Bridging Support Program for School of Dentistry Federally Funded Research**

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When applying, please contact the School of Dentistry Grants and Contracts Office ([dent-grants@umich.edu](mailto:dent-grants@umich.edu)) no less than 2 weeks prior to your planned submission date.

### **Bridging Support Funds:**

The school is aware that even the most successful investigators experience gaps in funding during their careers and is supportive of a program to provide support to continue federally funded research projects that have a non-fundable peer review score but are likely to be funded on resubmission or on future modified submissions. The expectation is that an investigator can request up to \$20,000 from the school with a required 1:1 match from the investigator's home department.

Applications should demonstrate a bridge between an existing research project and eventual support, rather than requesting funding for a project repeatedly denied support that has no obvious basis for a bridge to eventual future funding. Usually the bridge should be established from an existing federal grant to a future federal grant and there must be evidence that the PI has applied or will apply for continued federal funding for the same or associated project.

### **Guidelines and working principles:**

It is expected that in applying for these funds, an investigator will have a committed, same amount match from his/her home department.

- An investigator can apply for one round of funding per 12 month cycle. If funded, an investigator cannot apply again during the subsequent 24 months.
- Awarded funds would be available for a 12-month period.
- Priority will be given to investigators whose sole source of grant support would be the bridging funds.
- These funds are not intended as a supplement or complement to start-up packages for new faculty members.
- Applicants may be at any rank in the tenure track.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, as long as sufficient funds are available to fund Bridging proposals.
- The faculty's appointing unit must agree to provide at least 5% non-sponsored research effort to the applicant, in addition to the cost-share matching requirement.

### **Eligibility:**

All full-time, on-campus tenure track faculty members with primary appointment in the School of Dentistry are eligible to apply. Applications for the following are not accepted: projects to be performed while the PI is away on sabbatical, visiting professors, faculty without evidence of investigative independence, and faculty whose future work will not continue at the University.

### **Funding Amounts:**

**School's Funding Program:** Up to \$20,000 is available to maintain projects over a short duration (one year or less).

**PI's Department:** An equal amount of matching funds (up to \$20,000) is REQUIRED from the PI's department.

**Submission Process for School of Dentistry bridging application:**

Please submit all application materials to the School of Dentistry's InfoReady website.

All required fields should be completed on the competition's InfoReady Website located at <https://umichdent.infoready4.com/#>.

In addition, the following documents should be uploaded as PDF documents:

**A.** Cover Letter describing the circumstances for the specific request; status of external funding applications or funding review related to the request, and a clear statement about expectations for external funding.

**B.** Budget and budget justification.

Requests should be limited to the minimum funding necessary to maintain a defined project over a short duration. These funds are not expected or meant to support a PI's entire lab. Awards may not cover budget reductions in existing awards from external sponsors, cost overruns, travel, salary support for the principal investigator or major equipment purchases. A narrative which fully explains the relationship of costs to the proposed activity and the basis for cost estimates. If salaries are included, please itemize the salary and fringe benefits for each person. The narrative should include a clear statement about any other funding sources available to the principal investigator for the project. The investigator should be clear about potential use for any department-based, research "reserve" or "discretionary" funds that are available.

**C. Submitted Grant Proposal Documents**

The following pages should be taken from the submitted grant application for which bridging support is requested. If the reviewer requires further information, a copy of the entire NIH grant may be requested.

- Abstract
- Specific Aims
- Summary of previous work related to proposal (1 page maximum)

**D.** Biosketch. An NIH-style biosketch, using the current format, is required for the PI on the application.

**E.** The Summary Statement for the most recent federal grant proposal along with the (proposed) response to the summary statement, indicating how the resubmission will address the criticisms of the study section. (3 pages maximum)

**F.** Experimental plan for use of the requested funds. (5 pages maximum)

**G.** Other support pages in NIH format.

### **Review Criteria for Applications:**

The primary criterion for awards is outstanding science. Other evaluation criteria will include:

- ability to bridge an established project and associated research group;
- likelihood of external support for the project;
- quality and significance of proposed research and research group to the overall research environment of the school;
- the likely impact of this work on the field and its potential to enhance the scholarly distinction of the University; and
- the productivity of the applicant.

There must be a high probability that the investigator will receive external funding within the next 12 months.

### **Review Committee:**

The Associate Dean for Research will constitute a committee of three School of Dentistry tenure track faculty members, to be augmented if needed by one additional member on an *ad hoc* basis who can be from outside of the School of Dentistry. Faculty members with any perceived conflict of interest will be excluded from the pool of potential reviewers.

*Committee Chair:* Associate Dean for Research

*Ex Officio:* Dean of School