

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE PSYCHIATRY RESEARCH INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

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DEADLINE EXTENDED: Letter of Intent due date: April 24, 2020

Application due date: TO BE DETERMINED

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus (CU-AMC) is pleased to announce a new funding mechanism designed to advance research efforts within the Department. **Eligible faculty are invited to apply for a one-year award of up to \$25,000.** This internally funded program is designed to support projects that provide a firm foundation for future research investigations and result in peer review publications or other scholarly products.

Eligibility: This funding is intended for faculty who have **primary** appointments of at least 50% FTE in the Department of Psychiatry. Multi-PI applications including Co-PI and Mentor/Mentee PI applications are welcome, as long as one PI has a primary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry. Applications from junior faculty who require initial “research start up” support to complete a project that will lead to an externally funded research agenda are especially encouraged. Proposals from more senior faculty will also be considered, particularly if funding would facilitate a new area of research for the PI or a new research collaboration. However, this support mechanism should not be viewed as a means of obtaining bridge funding. (Specifically, no more than \$10,000 may be requested for investigator salary support.) Trainees (including post-doctoral fellows, residents, interns, and externs) are not eligible to apply to this program as a PI. However, trainees may collaborate on an application as a co-investigator.

Description: The grant program is divided into two, separate tracks. Applicants will **choose one** of the following tracks during the application process:

1. The **research track** is designed to fund projects with clear potential to lead to future extramural research funding. Applicants for this track should have strong prior research experience, including peer-reviewed manuscripts. Projects supported by this track could utilize either basic, translational, or clinical research frameworks and will often (though not always) be hypothesis driven. Exploratory projects designed to provide data that will allow investigators to develop testable hypotheses are also encouraged, as are studies that investigate the feasibility of incorporating a new method or protocol, assessment, technology, intervention, or treatment. Competitive applications will clearly state how findings from the current project will help investigators secure future extramural funding.
2. The **clinical track** is designed to fund projects that expand a clinical entity’s ability to form new research partnerships. Applicants for this track may or may not have prior research experience but must demonstrate an intention to pursue future research investigations, either independently or as a collaborator with other researchers. Projects supported by this track could (for example) aim to better characterize a patient population in preparation for future research investigations, implement quality improvement activities such as improving data collection processes or clinic workflows to allow for more rigorous study designs, or investigate the feasibility of incorporating a new research protocol, assessment, technology, intervention, or treatment within a clinical setting. This track is not appropriate for randomized clinical trials or an open label treatment study. Competitive applications will clearly state how successful completion of the proposed project will facilitate future research investigations.

General Grant Requirements:

- Faculty must have a regular or affiliate primary appointment in the DOP with at least 50% FTE.
- Proposals must clearly demonstrate how the project advances research within the DOP.
- Project must be of appropriate scope for **one year** of funding.
- Applicants may have other funding, but it must **not** be duplicative of the project being proposed. Applicants must provide a clear justification as to why additional funding is required.
- Awardees are expected to provide a mid-year report approximately 6 months into the funding period (template will be provided).
- A final report must be submitted in one combined PDF to Dr. Christine Garver-Apgar 6 months after project completion (typically 18 months after funding). The final report should summarize results from the project, including any challenges and successes; conferences attended or anticipated; manuscripts or other scholarly products that are either anticipated, in preparation, or submitted based on work accomplished with PRI funds, and any efforts made or anticipated for securing further funding. Include copies of any submitted or published scholarly products or manuscripts.
- Awardees must agree to acknowledge Psychiatry Research Innovations Grant Program on all presentations, publications, and other scholarly accomplishments stemming from work conducted during the award period.
- Awardees are expected to give a brief presentation of project results at a departmental faculty meeting and submit an abstract to the annual Departmental Research Day.

Guidelines for Letter of Intent

A **Letter of Intent** addressed to Dr. Christine Garver-Apgar is required and will be used to assess the appropriateness of projects *before* investigators contribute time and effort toward a full application. The deadline for LOI submission has been extended to **Friday, April 24 by 5pm**. You will be notified within approximately two weeks whether you will be invited to submit a full application.

A. The applicant will include a **cover page** containing the following information:

- Title of proposal
- Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigators
- Co-investigator(s) (if any)
- Current faculty position of the PI(s)
- If applicable, a brief description of other current funding and why the proposed work is not duplicative

B. The applicant will include a brief (**up to 1-page**) **project description** to include:

- A summary of the project goals, rationale, and approach,
- A discussion of how the project will lead to future extramural funding or research collaborations,
- A description of how the project will advance the research goals of the applicant.

**** If an applicant is not invited to submit a full proposal for the PRI Grant Program at this stage, applicants are welcome to arrange a consultation with the PRI to further develop research ideas. Please contact Merlin Ariefdjohan, Merlin.Ariefdjohan@cuanschultz.edu**

Guidelines for Application

- Applications should be combined into a single PDF and addressed to Dr. Christine Garver-Apgar. The due date for the applications is to be determined in light of the LOI deadline extension. (Funding may begin as early as **August 1**.)
- Applications will be reviewed by an executive committee organized by the PRI. Proposals should be written so that they are easily understood by departmental investigators outside the PI's specific research area. The Committee will provide specific feedback and suggestions to **all program applicants**, regardless of whether the proposal was funded.
- Projects proposing humans or animals as research subjects require approval from the appropriate institution (e.g. COMIRB, IACUC). Such approval must be submitted to the PRI before grant funds will be distributed, but prior approval is not required to submit a proposal.
- Funding may begin as early as **August 1** or as soon as the PRI has received all required approvals. The standard funding period is **12 months**. Permission must be obtained to extend the grant period.

Proposal Format:

- A. Cover Page (1 page):** Provide the name of the applicant, including present academic positions (including department[s] and institutions), the applicant's contact information (email, phone, campus location and campus mailing address), and the title of the work proposed. Also list the names and positions of all co-investigators and any other key personnel involved in the project.
- B. Abstract (300-word maximum):** Briefly describe the applicant's proposed project and how it will advance research within the department. The abstract should be on a separate page.
- C. Main proposal** should be **3-pages maximum**, not including references. Applications must conform to NIH formatting guidelines. Margins must be 0.5" inches or greater and font style must be no smaller than Arial 11. The body of the proposal should include:
 - 1. Goals, objectives, or aims of your project.** Clearly state the aims or goals of the work proposed and relate them to your long-term research and scholarship goals.
 - 2. Background and Rationale.** Describe background research that informed the current proposal, and state how the proposed work will fill a knowledge gap and lead to future research efforts or collaborations.
 - 3. Approach.** Describe the overall design of the study and/or the procedures that will be employed to accomplish the work proposed. Describe the subject or patient population, proposed tests or assessments, and data collection and analysis strategies.
 - 4. Support.** Briefly state what supports or services (either from PRI or other sources) are required for the project to be successful. Applicants are encouraged to utilize PRI services if applicable (e.g. biostatistical support, research operations). In addition, state whether IRB approval is required, and provide a rough timeline of securing such approval if it hasn't been obtained already.

5. Significance. Explain how this project will lead to future extramural funding or ongoing research investigations. What questions will the study or project answer? How will achieving the proposed project goals advance the research agenda of the investigator(s)?

D. Biographical Sketch: Provide an NIH-formatted biographical sketch for the Principal Investigator(s). Please use the current form: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch-blankformat.docx>. For instructions on creating an NIH-formatted biosketch and to view a sample biosketch, please visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

E. Budget and Budget Justification. Include a detailed budget request for the award period with **all costs** justified. Aspects of the proposed projects receiving support from existing sources must be clearly justified.

Budget Considerations:

- Allowable Costs include: Salary support for PRAs or other staff and/or providers from partner clinics or agencies, data collection and management costs, essential supplies, participant compensation, laboratory analysis costs, up to \$10,000 of investigator salary support.
- Not allowable: Equipment, Travel, Office supplies, Investigator salaries above \$10,000

Please address any questions to: Christine Garver-Apgar, PhD, Christine.Garver-Apgar@cuanchutz.edu