August 21, 2023

TO: Medical School Faculty

FROM: Blossom Damania, PhD
             Vice Dean for Research, SOM

RE: New Round of Boost Funding

UNC School of Medicine (SOM) faculty are extremely successful in their efforts to obtain funding for their research, even though the funding climate has become increasingly competitive. The SOM recognizes that it often takes multiple submissions and additional experimental data to get a new project funded, particularly as a new investigator, or with a more complex, multi-PI project.

In support of these efforts, the SOM Office of Research is inviting applications from faculty for Boost awards, which are designed to boost the chances of funding for an NIH grant (or similar) that has been reviewed favorably but needs additional revisions and preliminary data in order to be funded on resubmission. *Please note that Boost awards are distinct from the OoR Bridge Funding program, which provides funds for bridging A1 renewal applications for ongoing, not new, projects.*

Award Information:

Up to $25,000 will be provided to successful applicants for lab supplies, animal expenses, core services, and salary for research support personnel for up to a 12-month period during the preparation of a revised proposal. Boost funds **<u>cannot</u>** be used for faculty salary, equipment, travel, or administrative costs.

Eligibility:

- Funding must be requested for a **<u>new</u>** NIH R01 or equivalent that has been reviewed previously within the last 12 months.
- The proposal must have been administratively routed through the SOM.
- Applicant/PI must have no more than 2 R01s (or equivalent) of funding.
- Applicant / PI must have no more than $50K of startup, retention, or other similar funding available to offset project costs.
- Although all eligible applicants are welcome, priority will be given to K to R01 transitions, early stage investigators, and multi-PI team projects.

Application Materials: *Please submit a single pdf file with the following components in the order below. Each applicant may only submit one boost funding application.*

1. Cover letter from applicant. Please note how Boost funds will support the success of the resubmission.
2. Support letter from Department Chair (no matching funds are required).
3. Specific Aims page and Research Plan from previously submitted grant.
4. Reviews of the previously submitted grant.
5. 1-page summary addressing the deficiencies noted in the review and how they will be addressed in the revised application.
6. Budget and Justification. Maximum request is $25,000. Please note any discretionary funds available (startup, etc.; must be less than $50K).
7. NIH biosketch. Please include all current and pending support (internal and external).

The deadline for application is **5 P.M. Monday, October 9, 2023**. Please submit all applications ad questions to Trisha Dant at OoR_Submissions@med.unc.edu. Trisha can also be reached at 919-966-4287.