

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

February 26, 2024

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 **cannot** be used for faculty salary, equipment, travel, or administrative costs.

Eligibility:

- Funding must be requested for a **new** 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.

*** For multiple PI applications, this criteria must be met for all PIs**

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Application Materials: *Please submit a single pdf file with the following components in the order below:*

1. Cover letter from applicant. Please note how Boost funds will support the success of the resubmission. Also please describe any progress (i.e. publications whether published or in progress, new preliminary data since last submission etc.) since the grant was last reviewed.
2. Support letter from Department Chair (no matching funds are required).
3. Reviews of the previously submitted grant.
4. 1-page summary addressing the deficiencies noted in the review and how they will be addressed in the revised application. This should be the same letter that will be submitted as part of your resubmission to the NIH.
5. Specific Aims page and Research Plan from previously submitted grant.
6. NIH Biosketch. Please provide your current Biosketch.
7. Other Support. Please include a your current Other Support document.
8. Budget and Justification. Maximum request is \$25,000. Please note any discretionary funds available (startup, etc.; must be less than \$50K).

The deadline for application is **5 P.M. Monday, April 22, 2024**. Please submit all applications and questions to Trisha Dant at OoR_Submissions@med.unc.edu. Trisha can also be reached at 919-966-4287.