



**The Wallace H. Coulter Translational Partners Grant Program  
at The University of Virginia  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
Application Deadline: February 11, 2009**



**Program:** A grant from the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation supports collaborative translational research projects that involve co-investigators from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and a clinician co-investigator from the UVA School of Medicine, School of Nursing or Health Systems. The goal of this program is to support collaborative research projects that address unmet clinical needs and lead to improvements in health care and commercial products. Examples of desirable outcomes include improved diagnosis and treatment of disease through inventions and patents, commercial products, commercial partnerships, licenses and start-up companies. Awarded project teams will benefit from the participation of the Coulter Project Director and the Coulter Partnership board of advisors (a list of board members will be available to applicants). Both short-term and long-term projects are eligible.

**Eligibility:** Permanent, full-time, tenure-track faculty in the professorial ranks (assistant, associate, full).

**Criteria:** Each proposal must have at least two co-investigators, at least one whose primary salaried appointment is in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Virginia and at least one clinical investigator from a clinical department in the UVA School of Medicine, UVA School of Nursing, or Health Systems. The research must relate directly to applications in health care, and the objectives of the project should include an outcome that will benefit patients. Evaluation of each proposal will be based on scientific/clinical merit, potential health care impact and significance, experience of the investigators, and the potential for commercialization and for successfully obtaining further support. The program expects to select 4-6 projects per year for funding.

**Submission:** Applicants should submit a ½-page abstract on their project and discuss their proposal with **David Chen, director, Coulter Translational Research Partnership (434.243.7357; davidchen@virginia.edu)** prior to submission. David Chen, Tom Skalak, Chair of Biomedical Engineering and selected members of the Coulter Partnership board of advisors will provide iterative feedback to teams. **Investigators must submit the final proposal by February 11, 2009** via e-mail AND hardcopy to David Chen (davidchen@virginia.edu). The Advisory Board will review the proposals and make recommendations on funding priority. **Final candidates will give a presentation to the Advisory Board in March 2009.** To encourage and increase the rate of community information exchange, the finalist presentations for the Coulter grants will be open to department and submitting teams. Eligible BME faculty and Coulter team members are welcome to be present for all team presentations as well as Advisory Board question and answer sessions.

The program will notify applicants of their grant status between the third or fourth week in March 2009. Funding will begin April 2009.

Applications should not exceed five pages, excluding a cover page, a budget page, and two-page CVs from the co-investigators. Use Arial font of 11-12 point size. The cover page must contain the project title, names of the co-investigators, amount requested, a one-paragraph summary, and the approval/signature of the department chair of the co-investigator who is not in the BME Department (the signature can be scanned as part of your proposal or faxed separately to 434-982-3870). Award recipients will be required to prepare quarterly progress reports for the Coulter Foundation and board of advisors.

Specific aspects of the final proposals will include:

- Quarterly milestones and research plan for achieving them
- Explanation of clinical relevancy of research (e.g., envisioned product, clinical need)
- Intellectual property status, strategy and plan
- List of current funding and pending proposals for each co-investigator
- Plan for funding after Coulter award expires
- Include IRB and/or ACUC status for project

**Duration:** Grants will be for a one-year period, and can be renewed on a competitive basis with new applications. Competitive renewal applications must have a comparison of milestones achieved vs. those planned in the original submission. The program expects that some projects may be renewed for up to three years, but that many projects will receive other funding prior to that time.

**Budgets:** Eligible budget items include salary support (faculty, graduate students, and other research staff), operating supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time, and travel directly associated with the research activity. Funds cannot be used for general staff, administrative support, or tuition. Grant budget may not exceed \$100,000 in direct costs for a one-year period. Indirect costs cannot exceed 20% of direct costs funded.