

LaunchPad
Biomedical Innovation in Diabetes
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Application Due: *October 19, 2009*

Program: A new University of Virginia Fund has been created to support and stimulate biomedical innovation and translational research projects in the field of Diabetes. The LaunchPad Fund is possible due to a generous gift from Paul and Diane Manning with the intent of promoting innovative translational and collaborative projects. We expect to make 3 to 5 awards averaging \$50,000 each for 12 months, although the award size is flexible and will be commensurate with the project stage and goals and may range from \$25,000 to \$75,000. To generate novel ideas, projects involving faculty co-investigators from multiple departments, schools, or specialties at UVA are encouraged, however, proposals from individual investigators or teams from single departments that are appropriate for a given innovation project will also be accepted. The goal of this program is to support translational research projects that address unmet clinical needs and lead to tangible improvements in health care for patients with Diabetes. Examples of desirable outcomes include improved diagnosis and treatment of Diabetes through inventions and patents, commercial products, commercial partnerships, licenses and start-up companies. Awarded project teams will benefit from the feedback and availability of the LaunchPad Review Board and Governing Board.

Eligibility: Investigators are required to be permanent, full-time, tenure-track faculty at professorial rank (assistant, associate, or full professor). One co-investigator on each team is required to have a primary appointment in the School of Medicine or School of Nursing.

Criteria: Proposed research must relate directly to applications in health care, and the objectives of the project should include an outcome that will benefit patients with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes. Evaluation of each proposal will be based on scientific/clinical merit, the potential for commercialization and for successfully obtaining follow-on funding, potential health care impact and experience of the investigator(s).

Submission: It is highly recommended that applicants submit a ½ page abstract on their project and discuss their proposal with **Greg Fralish, Ph.D., Program Director, Clinical and Translational Research, School of Medicine (434.982.6829; gfralish@virginia.edu)** prior to submission. Greg, as well as selected members of the program's Review Board and Governing Board will provide feedback to teams as appropriate. **Investigators must submit the final proposal by October 19, 2009 via e-mail, as a single PDF, to gfralish@virginia.edu.** The Review Board will select finalists in late-October, 2009, and ***finalists will present their proposals to the Review Board in mid-November 2009.*** Funding will begin in early-December, 2009.

Applications may not exceed five pages, *excluding* a cover page, a budget page, and two-page CVs from the co-investigators. Use Arial 12 font and 1" margins. References, tables and figures are included in the five-page limit. The cover page must contain the project title, names of the investigator(s), amount requested, a one-paragraph summary, and the approval/signature of the department chair(s).

Final proposals must include these components:

- Specific milestones and research plan for achieving them
- Explanation of clinical impact 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 LaunchPad award expires, if appropriate

Award recipients will be required to prepare one 6-month progress report and a final report for the Review Board. An additional presentation, after review of the 6-month progress reports, may be requested by the Review Board in order to provide guidance on project outcomes and further gauge progress. Projects involving research animals or human subjects must have approved protocols before any such work may be initiated

Duration: Grants will be awarded for a one-year period and may be renewed on a competitive basis with new applications. Competitive renewal applications will be expected to have a comparison of milestones achieved vs. those planned in the original submission. Projects may not be renewed beyond three years.

Budgets: Eligible budget items include salary support for project personnel, supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time and travel directly associated with the research activity. Funds cannot be requested or used for F&A costs, administrative support or tuition. Grant budgets should not exceed \$75,000 in direct costs for a one-year period.