

**Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):
The Graduate School Seed Grants for UConn PostDocs to Develop New Research Projects
FY18**

A. KEY DATES

- FOA posted: March 5, 2018
- **Application Deadline: April 23, 2018**
- **No late applications will be accepted.**
- Applicants are notified of award decision within 4 weeks of submission.
- Award period: September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

B. PURPOSE

These grants provide funds to support UConn postdoctoral research associates as they develop new research projects with high potential for securing external funding through activities such as (but not limited to) a travel to a collaborator's site, purchase of new equipment and instruments, one-day workshop or series of structured meetings to develop a research agenda and identify team leaders, conduct small pilot studies, obtain preliminary results, or publish a high-impact literature review to establish a team's expertise in a new area. The proposal should not be an extension of a currently funded program but rather represent a new direction.

C. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Proposals will be accepted until the deadline: **April 23, 2018**.
2. Proposals should be submitted via email to Martha Marroni (Martha.Marroni@uconn.edu).
3. The Postdoctoral Research Grant application (maximum of **2 single-spaced pages**, not including references, timeline, letter, CV, and budget) requires the following information:
 - a. Contact information (name, degree, department, address, and email) for PI(s).
 - b. A description of the planned activities, how these activities will support the development of the postdoctoral research associate's line of research, the types of funding mechanisms the postdoc might pursue from this work (e.g., R21, R01, NSF) if applicable, and a timeline and budget for the proposed activities. A list of researchers who will participate in the proposed activities should be included (with letters of support), but this list does not need to be exhaustive as one of the goals of the proposal may be to identify new team members. The **2-page limit** does not include the reference list, timeline, budget, CV, or any letters of recommendation or support from participating researchers. Appendices are not allowed.
 - c. At least one letter of recommendation from the postdoc applicant's PI(s) at UConn that addresses the postdoc applicant's potential to establish a novel research project.
 - d. Postdoc applicant's CV.
 - e. Letters of co-investigators should include a statement about how they will participate in the proposed activities. **This is not a letter of recommendation.** *This letter is not required if there are not any co-investigators.*
4. Postdoc applicants will be notified via email whether or not their proposal has been awarded funding.

D. FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- Three awards will be available: First place winner will receive \$2000, and two second-place winners will receive \$1000 each.
- A total amount of \$4000 will be awarded.
- Funds may be used to support expenses such as:
- Travel to a collaborator's laboratory including travel, accommodation, visa fees, and bench fees.
- Workshop expenses including food, room rentals, external speakers fees/travel if justified to move the team forward, and copying of workshop materials.
- Routine research-related expenses such as renting and purchasing of specialized equipment and software, paying research assistants with specialized skills necessary for the proposed project, payment of participants, copying of research material (e.g., questionnaires, consent forms).
- Publication fees.
- The Graduate School may request modifications to the budget during the review process.

Seed grant funds may not be used for the following:

- a. Principal Investigator's, Co-Investigator's, or any faculty member's salary.
- b. Living expenses.
- c. Institutional memberships in professional organizations.
- d. Indirect costs, including clerical and administrative personnel salaries.
- e. Tuition.
- f. Routine office equipment.
- g. Student tuition and/or fees.

E. PROJECT AND INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

1. Proposals must be novel.
2. The investigator must have an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, PharmD), have an eligible postdoctoral research associate appointment (see below) affiliated with UConn Storrs (i.e., under the Graduate School).
3. Eligible appointments are UConn postdoctoral research associates, postdoctoral fellows, or postdoctoral scholars.
4. Ineligible faculty appointments are tenured or tenure-track faculty, in-residence research faculty, clinical faculty, other research faculty, research scientists/scholars, lecturers, research assistants and research associates, visiting titles, and adjunct faculty.
5. Graduate students are not eligible for this opportunity.
6. If funded, late changes to the project's objectives and budget will require approval from relevant Graduate School staff.
7. An individual may only submit one proposal for this competition.

F. REVIEW CRITERIA

Priority for funding will be based on the following review criteria, in no particular order:

- Scientific merit of the research idea.

- Extent to which a successful outcome is considered likely and any risk in outcome is outweighed by the potential benefits of success.
- Extent to which the research area is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing a new methodology, new theory, or new area in need of pilot or preliminary data.
- Importance of the potential research question to external funders and the feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent proposal to external funders no later than December 31, 2019. Extensions are available upon request.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).

G. AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS

If awarded, the postdoc applicants are not required to route their proposal through Sponsored Programs Services (SPS).

The awarded postdoc applicants are responsible for obtaining all required approvals for the research from their relevant IRB(s) and IACUC(s). Please visit the UConn IRB and IACUC websites for more information on IRB and IACUC approval for research conducted at the UConn Storrs Campus, the five regional campuses, the School of Law and the School of Social Work. For more information on IRB and IACUC approval for research conducted at UConn Health, please visit the respective UConn Health websites.

Awardees will be required to submit a brief progress report (one paragraph in length) by February 1, 2019 and a final report (one paragraph in length) by October 1, 2019. Changes to the project's objectives, research staff, and budget will require prior approval from Graduate School staff.

Detailed awardee instructions/requirements will be distributed to seed grant winners when they are notified of the award decisions. All awardee requirements described above are subject to change in accordance with updated institutional procedures (e.g., routing requirements).

H. CONTACT

For questions not addressed in this FOA or on our seed grant webpage, please contact Martha Marroni (Martha.Marroni@uconn.edu).