

## **SOM Bridge Funding Program**

### **Applications are Due April 15 and December 15**

To assist investigators who have temporarily lost significant federal research funding, and to facilitate carefully planned changes in research direction, the School of Medicine offers a Bridge Funding Program. Bridge funding up to \$100,000 (including Department support/matching funds) will be available to investigators based on merit, potential for renewal of external funding, and availability of SOM funds.

- Bridge funds cannot be used for faculty salary support of the PI(s).
- For Department of Medicine Applicants Only - DoM internal review due dates are April 1 and December 1. Please [click here](#) for more details.

**Criteria for Eligibility (all four criteria must be met)** - Awards typically will be given to projects seeking RO1 levels of funding, but other types of applications could be considered.

1. BRIDGING: A previous award and application must be demonstrated. This would include:
  - a. Grant applications representing a competing continuation that were not funded; or
  - b. New grant applications that substitute for an “existing” research award that were not funded.
2. NEED:
  1. Individuals with start-up funds remaining in excess of \$100,000 are not eligible.
  2. Eligible applicants must have less than \$500,000 in current total, awarded, annual, direct extramural and intramural funds (discretionary, start up, SaLaD, etc...).
  3. PI must provide detailed list of current annual direct costs, awarded and future funding available (what do you have access to this year, next year, etc?).
3. POTENTIAL:
  1. The competitive renewal should have been discussed and scored if an NIH application, or received excellent or equivalent ratings from NSF or other federal applications.
  2. Proposals that have been triaged are not eligible for review.
  3. The Bridge Review Committee will not re-review its decisions. As such, applications that have not undergone another round of extramural review by the sponsor will not be accepted.
4. TIME LIMIT:
  1. Applications for Bridge funding must be received within 18 months of the initial submission of the grant to the sponsor.

## I. Application Procedure

Applications will be accepted for deadlines of April 15 and December 15, and should be submitted by the investigator's department chair as an **electronic, single pdf**, in the order listed below to Nicole Tharp ([nicole.c.tharp@emory.edu](mailto:nicole.c.tharp@emory.edu)) in the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research (incomplete packages will not be considered for funding):

### A. Cover letter (2 pages maximum) from the investigator using the following organization:

A.0. In the document Header: Name, Department Name, Department Number

A.1. BUDGET: A proposed budget for use of the bridge funds, including names and roles for the personnel.

- *\*Note that the School's bridge funds cannot be used for salary support of the PI or co-PIs, travel, or equipment.*

A.2. FUNDING AVAILABLE: PI must provide detailed list of current annual direct costs awarded and future funding available. Dollar amounts (direct funding) available from ALL sources, source type and number, your role, and their ending dates. If you have a complex multi-PI grant, list direct costs to your lab and total costs for the project. If you have no current funding, state none. What do you have access to this year, next year, etc?

- Bridge Funding Applications are not prepared nor routed through RAS. Should additional guidance be needed to obtain **a Summary of Funds only**, please send a request to the SOM's Business and Finance, Research email ([somresearch@Enterprise.emory.net](mailto:somresearch@Enterprise.emory.net)) and someone will be able to provide assistance. Please note: Requests for Summary of Funds information must be submitted **two weeks prior to the application deadline**.

A.3. The number of laboratory personnel and positions (tech, grad student, postdoc, etc.), and the current annual direct costs for running the lab.

A.4. The specific consequences to the research program and laboratory personnel of having lost the grant, including a description of how operating costs are being reduced.

A.5. The termination date of the current grant and when current funds for that grant will expire. If the grant is in no cost extension; list current available funds.

A.6. The author, title, journal and reference of five articles that the applicant considers to be the most significant, recent papers.

A.7. A statement that remaining bridge funds will be relinquished as soon as additional funding is secured

**B. 1-page plan for resubmission** (with expected resubmission date), including responses to major criticisms of the grant and intended resubmission date. This could resemble the “Introduction” page of a revised NIH grant proposal. Also, include plans to gather essential preliminary data for this submission. (Note: This part of the application is critically evaluated by the Bridge Funding Program.)

**C. Copy of the entire relevant grant application.**

**D. Study section review sheets (summary statements)** or NSF/ VA/ Federal Grant evaluations of the competitive renewal.

**E. Requesting faculty member’s Full CV.**

**F. A separate, confidential letter (pdf)** should be prepared from the investigator's chair (or Division Chief) and sent directly to the **Executive Administrator, Research Programs and Operations - Lisa M. Carlson, MPH, MCHES**. This is a confidential letter that only the leadership team making the final funding decisions will read (this letter should not be included in the applicant’s packet). The letter should:

F.1. confirm the amount of the request,

F.2. indicate the degree of departmental enthusiasm for the investigator,

F.3. state that the investigator does not have other monies to draw on,

F.4. state whether the investigator would benefit from mentoring and if so the outline of a plan, and

\*F.5. state whether additional departmental funds are available to pool with institutional bridge funds, and if so, up to what level. Departmental matching funds are strongly encouraged but might not be possible in all situations. Note that matching funds must be in the form direct dollars available for research and cannot be in the form

of PI salary support via SOM. Requests to bridge subprojects on U- and P-series grants must have a separate endorsement of the U- or PPG PI.

### **III. Selection and Funding Procedures**

A committee of seasoned investigators with Study Section experience will review applications and recommend action, recognizing that sufficient funds are unlikely to be available to support all applicants. Decisions will be made in consultation with the Dean, the EAD-Research office, and WHSC VP-Research. Work funded under this mechanism must meet all regulatory requirements of Emory University School of Medicine. Funds unexpended within 15 months of the initial payment will be relinquished.

### **IV. Follow-up**

One-year after the end of the bridge award the faculty member and departmental chair will prepare a brief letter to the Executive Associate Dean of Research describing the outcome of the award (e.g., grant applications, publications, and grant awards derived from this funding).