

The W.M. Keck Foundation – **Research Grants Opportunity: Medical and Science and Engineering**

Limited Opportunity

Coordinator: Kristin Anderson, Foundation Relations
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Website: <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research>
Submission Limitations: Only one per program area per institution
Internal Deadline: December 9, 2021
Internal Submission Link: All applicants must upload proposals to the InfoReady platform [here](#)
Foundation Deadline: May 1, 2022

Opportunity Overview:

This announces the internal process to select Emory candidates for the **Keck Foundation Grant Programs** limited submission opportunity. Per Keck's proposal submission process, preliminary proposals will be shared with the Keck program officers in January 2022. At that meeting the Keck program officers will identify which proposals Emory will submit for the May 1, 2022 application deadline.

Keck funds innovative, high-risk, and high-impact projects that are top institutional priorities. Typically, Keck projects solve important science and engineering questions and also develop novel techniques and/or instruments that can be disseminated throughout the research community: "By funding the high-risk/high-impact work of leading researchers, we are laying the groundwork for new paradigms, technologies and discoveries that will save lives, provide innovative solutions, and add to our understanding of the world. Both Senior and Early Career investigators are encouraged to apply." Keck does not, however, fund translational biomedical research. Keck seeks to fund projects that do not fit within established federal agency funding schema. To help one determine the "fit" of a potential project for Keck, please see the abstracts of recent Keck award winners available through the Foundation website ([link](#)). Kristin Anderson of the Office of Foundations is also happy to provide feedback to PIs regarding project fit; please feel free to contact limited-ops@emory.edu. Emory may ultimately submit two (2) **Phase I** proposals, 1 in *Medical Research*, and 1 in *Science & Engineering* by the May 1, 2022 deadline.

Eligibility

- Senior, mid-level, or early career investigators performing basic (not clinical) research
- Projects must be distinctive, novel, pushing the edge of the field or questioning the prevailing paradigm
- Support is for pioneering biological, science, and engineering research and the development of breakthrough technologies, methodologies, and/or instrumentation

- Projects should fall outside the mission of public funding agencies, demonstrating that private philanthropy, generally, and the W.M. Keck Foundation, in particular, is essential to the project's success
- Medical research projects conducted in hospitals are not eligible

Additional Information

<http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research>

Recent Keck award winners are listed in the Keck annual reports ([link](#)).

Cost Share/Award Size

Recent Keck awards have typically been around \$1M. Cost sharing is not required; however, Keck does look for the University to support the effort in some form. This support can be in the form of cash, equipment, facilities, etc. We recommended an institutional match of 0.75:1 to 1:1. For example, a \$1M Keck award over three years would require an Emory match of \$750,000 to \$1M over three years. Thus, the total project budget over three years would be roughly \$1.75-2M. As you calculate institutional support, please keep in mind that the Foundation does not fund general operation expenses (i.e., indirect costs) so any support provided by the University in these areas would also be deemed as cost sharing or institutional support.

We highly recommend you contact Kristin Anderson at kristin.anderson@emory.edu for questions regarding your project or institutional support recommendations.

Instructions for submitting the Internal Application:

To apply for this opportunity, you can access Emory's InfoReady page [here](#), where you can login using your Emory credentials and view upcoming deadlines. You can access this opportunity directly [here](#), click on "Apply" and follow the directions to submit your internal application, which must be received by **5PM December 9, 2021**.

The internal application must include the following:

1. a 1-page project summary identifying the research area (*Medical Research or Science & Engineering*) that should include:

- an abstract/overview of the research proposed, emphasizing unique aspects;
- a mention of pilot studies or data, if any — including unpublished findings — that support the idea;
- a brief description of the key personnel and methodologies; a brief justification of the need for Keck support;

- an estimated budget broken down, if possible, by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (Budgets can be rough approximations at this stage.)
- if a reference is absolutely necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, '11)

2. If you have previously applied for federal funding and been rejected: please write a 1-paragraph discussion of the feedback you received from federal program officers about your proposed project; Keck will require evidence that your proposal, while innovative and potentially high-impact, is outside the mission of federal agencies. If you have not applied for federal funding for this proposed work: please provide a brief summary of why your project would be ineligible for federal funding.

3. 2-page biosketch for the PI only. This should include education, current and former positions held, and a list of the most recent publications.

Informational Sessions:

Kristin Anderson of the Office of Foundation Relations will be hosting two informational sessions prior to the deadline:

- November 18th at 9:00 am
- November 18th at 4:00 pm

Please RSVP to Ginger Lindsey at ginger.lindsey@emory.edu to receive the Zoom link. If you are unable to make either of these times, please contact Kristin Anderson to schedule a one-on-one meeting.

Limited Submission Process and Review

To summarize, reviewers for individual limited submission opportunities are drawn from a standing committee of tenured faculty members who are nominated by the Schools and appointed by the Off. of the Provost. *Ad hoc* committee members may also be invited to serve on specific panels based on their subject expertise and/or their experience with a particular sponsor or program. The internal review committee provides critical reviews of internal pre-proposals and makes recommendations for the pre-proposals that should go forward for external submission. The Office of the Provost follows the best practice of many foundations and agencies and does not disclose the names of individual reviewers who contribute to a specific review panel. The limited submission team notifies individual internal applicants of their pre-proposal review results via email. The limited submission team notifies the Department, School, and Office of Sponsored Programs of the proposal(s) that will go forward for external submission via email.

Limited Submission Timeline:

- December 9th, 2021: internal submissions due via Infoready portal
- December 10th-January 2nd: Review Committee reviews submissions
- January 3rd: Review committee submits top 8 proposals (4 per program area) to Keck for pre-application counseling call
- January 3rd-February 15th: Pre-application counseling call to be scheduled with Keck
- February 15-28th: Finalists chosen to submit 2 Phase I applications (1 per program area) via the foundation's portal by May 1
- March 1st-April 30th: Applicants work with OFR on proposal development and submission

Questions: email limited-ops@emory.edu or kristin.anderson@emory.edu