

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**FY 2016 INTRAMURAL GRANTS**

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, January 4th 2016, 5:00 PM**

**The Division of Research & Innovation is pleased to announce a call for applications**

 **for the FY 2016 funding cycle.**

**Announcement Date:** Wednesday, October 7th, 2015

**Applications Due**: Monday, January 4th 2016, 5:00 PM

**Project Start Date and Award Period**: April 1, 2016; 18 months
**Award Notification**: By Monday, March 28, 2016 (faculty pilot, bridge and UAEM grants)

By Monday, February 1st, 2016 (doctoral student bridge grants)

**Purpose:**

The UNTHSC Intramural Grant Program is designed to advance and accelerate the research programs of UNTHSC faculty members and doctoral students. These intramural grants support pilot studies, data collection, data analyses and other research activities that will likely result in extramural grant support, enable the development of external partnerships, and/or enhance the commercial potential of UNT Health Science Center discoveries.

**Program Scope:**

The total amount of funds available in the current fiscal year for this intramural grant program is estimated to be up to approximately $600,000. The final number of grants funded will ultimately depend on the quality of applications received. For this current call for applications, research projects can be submitted within one of the following five program categories:

**(1) Faculty Research Pilot Grants**

The purpose of the pilot grant program is to support the exploration and launch of innovative new research projects by faculty investigators at the UNT Health Science Center. The main intent of a Pilot Research Grant is to fund the collection of preliminary data that will lead to a competitive extramural grant application to a federal agency, a non-profit organization, or a commercial entity. While investigators at any faculty rank may apply, a portion of these funds will be prioritized to fund junior faculty investigators. Funds up to $20,000 per project may be requested pursuant to program guidelines found [here](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/APP-INSTRUCTIONS-RESEARCH-FUNDING-FY-16-2015.10.06.docx).

**(2) Faculty Research Bridge Grants**

Faculty bridge funding is intended to provide temporary support to continue operations of research laboratories whose extramural funding has recently ended. The eligibility falls into one of two categories. Category 1: A faculty member has submitted a competitive renewal application that received a percentile priority score of 50% or less with at least one resubmission opportunity available. Category 2: A faculty member has an extramural grant that recently ended and a new extramural grant starting, but only after some gap period. This grant does not provide faculty salary support, but rather provides funds to operate the research program: supplies, reagents, animal costs, technician and grad student salaries, etc. Funds up to $40,000 (this amount includes a 1:1 match from department chair, dean and/or institute director) may be submitted pursuant to program policy guidelines found [here](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/APP-INSTRUCTIONS-FACULTY-BRIDGE-FUNDING-FY-16-2015.10.06.docx).

NOTE: A separate program administered by the Office of the Provost provides bridge funding for faculty salary support. Please consult the Office of the Provost for further information about faculty salary bridge funding.

**(3) Doctoral Student Bridge Grants**

Doctoral bridge funding is intended to provide temporary research funding support to doctoral students who are close to completing the degree, but the laboratory’s funding has lapsed. These grants are intended to bridge doctoral research projects to enable students to complete the research requirements for the degree program. The funds are not for doctoral stipends, but rather for supplies, animal costs, reagents and/or other well-justified costs necessary for the completion of doctoral research. Funds up to $5,000 can be requested in a given cycle pursuant to program guidelines found [here](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/APP-INSTRUCTIONS-DOCTORAL-BRIDGE-FUNDING-FY16-2015.10.06.docx). There will be two RFAs per year for Doctoral Student Bridge Grant Applications. One in the fall and another in the spring.

**(4) Joint UAEM-UNTHSC Faculty Research Pilot Grants**

The Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM) and UNTHSC administer a joint pilot funding program designed to encourage collaboration in scientific research, technological development, and/or creative projects that include the academic exchange of scholars and graduate students from both institutions. The term “home institution” refers to the university at which a scholar is employed or at which a student is seeking a degree. The term “host institution” will refer to the university that a scholar or student is visiting. Faculty who received an award from this program in previous years are not eligible to apply. Grants up to $25,000 (UNTHSC portion is $25,000) will be awarded pursuant to program policy guidelines found [here](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/UAEM_APPLICATION-2015.10.06.docx).

**(5) UNTHSC Proof of Concept: Commercialization Grant Overview**

The goal of the UNTHSC Proof of Concept: Commercialization Grant (PoC) is to accelerate the commercialization of technology developed at and assigned to UNTHSC by providing funding to bridge the gap between scientific research and commercialization development. Projects appropriate for this opportunity will have already demonstrated successful results in the research environment and are poised for commercialization pending a specific, targeted demonstration, test result, or prototype that will advance the concept as may be required for licensing. Projects at the appropriate stage of development are those that have progressed beyond the stage where research funding opportunities (e.g., NIH, NSF, among others) are typically available, but capital from industry or an investment partner has not yet been secured because of unanswered questions that must be resolved before the technology would likely be licensable. Applicants must demonstrate that successful completion of the project would likely result in either a technology being licensed to an existing company or spur the development of a start-up company within 1-2 years. NOTE: Applications for Proof of Concept grants will be accepted only by invitation from the Office for Research Development and Commercialization (RD&C). Initial determination of project eligibility will be determined at LOI stage. More information and policy guidelines can be found [here](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/FY-16-IGP-POC-2015.10.06-FINAL.docx)**.**

**Grant Advisors**

Once a PI is awarded an intramural Faculty Research Pilot Grant (category 1 above), he/she will be required, as a condition of funding, to recruit one experienced research scientist with study section/review panel experience to serve as their Grant Advisor. During the course of the intramural pilot project, the Grant Advisor will meet periodically with the PI to gauge progress and help steer the project toward a competitive extramural application. If the pilot project leads to extramural funding, an incentive payment will be made to the Grant Advisor by depositing funds in his/her F&A account.

**Review Procedures and Evaluation Criteria:**

Each proposal submitted to the Faculty Research Pilot Grant, Faculty Research Bridge Grant and the UAEM-UNTHSC Faculty Research Pilot Grant Programs will be evaluated using a three-stage process including administrative, scientific, and council review. Two scientific review panels (Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science Panel and Clinical-Community-Population Health Panel) will be comprised of UNTHSC faculty members. Reviewers involved in any of the submitted proposals, or members with any real or perceived conflict-of-interest will recuse themselves from discussion of that proposal. Members of the review panels are appointed by the VP for Research & Innovation.

**Eligibility and Limitations:**

Any full-time UNT Health Science Center faculty member is eligible to submit a grant proposal to the appropriate program. Proposals are restricted to providing research support at UNTHSC, except where collaborative arrangements are well justified. Use of these funds for faculty salaries is not permitted. Proposals should be submitted by the Lead PI listing the other investigators as Co-investigators. Applications for all individual programs require a cover page and budget, using the templates found at the links below.

[Cover Page](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/COVER-PAGE-INTRAMURAL-PILOT-GRANT-APPLICATION_FY15-2015.10.06.docx)

[Budget Template](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/UNTHSC-Budget-Sheet-FY16-2015.10.06.xlsx)

**Submission:**

**Proposals must be submitted electronically in Adobe PDF format.** The Principal Investigator should email the proposal to Aurelio.Rodriguez@unthsc.edu **by the application deadline of 5:00 PM on Monday January 4, 2016.** An email confirming receipt of the proposal will be sent to the submitting PI.

**Questions or Inquiries:**

Questions or inquiries should be directed to:

Aurelio Rodriguez, Research Funding Development Manager, Department of Research Development & Commercialization, Aurelio.Rodriguez@unthsc.edu.