Request for Proposals
Masonic Cross-Departmental Grants in Children’s Health Research

Letter of Intent Due: Monday, February 13, 2017
Full Proposal Due: Monday, April 3, 2017

Source of funding: Minnesota Masonic Charities

Opportunity:

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota is soliciting applications for Children’s Health. These grants will be awarded through a competitive peer-review process. The Masonic Cross-Departmental grants are intended to support new or expanding interdisciplinary research in Children’s Health that is innovative and has a high potential for future funding and discovery. Up to two awards of $200,000 each ($100,000 in each of years 1 and 2) are expected to be funded with an anticipated begin date of July 1, 2017.

Eligibility:

- The PI and Co-PI(s) of a cross-departmental grant must each be an active faculty member as Assistant, Associate, Full, or Regents Professor (any track), and one of which must have a primary or affiliate (joint or adjunct internal) faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics. Questions about eligibility should be directed to Caitlyn Bralick (brali001@umn.edu) who will obtain a response from leadership.

- The project must be interdisciplinary, involving a PI and Co-PI(s) from different departments or colleges/schools (for example, 1) a PI from Neurology or other Medical School department and a Co-PI from Pediatrics; or 2) a PI from Pediatrics and a Co-PI from a different department in any college or school at the UMN.

- Proposals are encouraged from all areas of research within the U of M, but must address an important area of children’s health. While all areas of child health research will be considered, proposals in developmental neuroscience/child development, pediatric cancer, infection/inflammation and childhood antecedents of metabolic disorders are particularly encouraged.

- A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which he/she is the PI or Co-PI. There is no limit to the number of proposals on which a faculty member can participate as a Co-Investigator, Investigator, Collaborator, etc.

Award Budget Information:

- The maximum award will be $200,000 awarded over two years ($100,000 in each of years 1 and 2). The funds must be designated for the direct support of research. In general, funds should be used for: Supplies, support of research personnel (research associates, postdocs, clinical research coordinators, graduate students or technicians), small equipment (less than $10,000), and fee-for-service use of shared resources (e.g., RAR, scientific services, biostatistics (BDAC), etc.) Funds can be used to support faculty salaries (up to 10% paid effort for each faculty) using the institutional base salary, capped at the NIH salary cap of $185,100). However, personnel costs (salary and fringe) are limited to no more than 50% of the annual budget. Funds cannot be used for administrative assistant salaries, service contracts, travel to scientific meetings, or computers unless dedicated to run equipment only. These are non-sponsored funds and no F&A costs will be supported.

Review Criteria:

Proposals will be judged on innovation, quality of the research approach, significance to children’s health, synergy of the research team, interdisciplinarity, justification for the request (particularly for applications from PIs with substantial funding) and the potential for future external funding to sustain or further develop the program.

Contact Information:

- Programmatic questions should be directed to Dr. Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari (panos001@umn.edu)
- Administrative, budget, and instructions questions should be directed to Caitlyn Bralick (brali001@umn.edu)
Application Process:

**LETTER OF INTENT:** Due no later than 11:59 pm, Monday, February 13, 2017

Go to [this survey](#) and in one sitting:

- complete the Letter of Intent (LOI) (includes PI and Co-PI contact information, title of the application and a one-paragraph summary describing the project). LOIs will not be scientifically reviewed, but used to assemble the review panel. An acknowledgement e-mail will be sent within 24 hours to the PI and Co-PI(s) that their LOI has been received.

**FULL PROPOSAL:** Due no later than 11:59 pm, Monday, April 3, 2017

The full proposal should be evaluable by a general scientific audience and avoid the use of discipline-specific jargon and acronyms. Sufficient space should be devoted to describing the unresolved questions and broad goals of the application, not just the details of specific methods. The following must be included:

- **Summary:** ½ page or less that can be understood by a lay audience.
- **Research Plan:** This section should include background, hypothesis/specific aims, any preliminary data (optional), approach, and references.
- **Sustainability:** Explain how these funds will help the project or program to move forward, and the strategy that will be employed to pursue external funding to sustain the project on a longer-term basis.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** Explain how the inter-departmental or inter-collegiate nature of the project will facilitate successful completion of the specific aims.
- **Roles and Synergy:** Describe the roles of the PI and co-PI(s) on the project and the potential for synergy in the collaboration.

Page limit for items a-e is 6 pages, single spaced, Arial or Helvetica typeface, font size 11, margins 0.5 inches on all sides. Page limitation includes figures, tables, and references.

- **PI and Co-PI(s) Biosketch:** Provide a biosketch for each (in NIH format, see [Biosketch Template](#)).
- **PI and Co-PI(s) Other Support:** Provide current and pending Other Support (in NIH format, see [OS Template](#)). This includes annual direct costs and effort commitment for each grant/proposal, and an indication of how each relates to the proposed project. For other support that *appears* to overlap with this application please clarify how the proposals differ.
- **Budget and Budget Justification:** Provide two annual detailed budgets (in NIH-format, see [Budget Template](#)) and one budget justification (see [Budget Justification Template](#)) that briefly justifies the line-items of the budgets (e.g., personnel, supplies, etc.).
- **Letters:** If independent outside consultants are proposed, a letter from each should be provided indicating their role, responsibilities, cost to the project and how that cost was calculated. (Subawards to other institutions or organizations are not expected to be included in these grants.)

NO PAGE LIMIT for items f-i except biosketches are not to exceed five pages each.

Go to [Cover Page](#) and in one sitting:

- complete the cover page information required (PI and Co-PI contact information, IRB/IACUC/IBC requirements)
- upload a single .pdf file of items a-i above.

An acknowledgment e-mail will be sent within 24 hours to the PI and Co-PI(s) that their full application has been received.

**Review Process:**
The review panel will include faculty members from the AHC and selected other colleges and schools. Unedited written critiques will be provided to applicants.

**Reporting Requirements:**
Principal investigators of funded projects will be required to provide a year-one interim progress report prior to receiving year-two funding. A final progress report and a final financial report of all funds expended will be required 60 days after the end of the two-year award period.