The Department of Pediatrics Research Council is pleased to announce a new funding mechanism to provide support for impactful, innovative ideas. The competition is organized into 4 Stages, with each subsequent Stage awarding progressively larger, but fewer, grants. Each Stage will have progressively longer timelines for completion of milestones. The timelines will be strict; no extensions will be given regardless of reason. Funds not utilized or encumbered in the time allotted will be recouped by the department. Therefore, you must plan ahead to be ready to start, and avoid delays.

CRITERIA:

- Only Academic Track (Scholarship focus areas: Clinical/Teaching/Research) faculty with a primary appointment in the Department of Pediatrics, and who have never held a national-level grant as PI, are eligible to apply. In the case of a multi-PI project, all PIs must fulfill this criterion. (Being a site-PI for a clinical study or subaward does not disqualify you.)
- Proposals should have direct application to pediatrics. Projects should be innovative, demonstrate a high level of potential impact and significance.
- All pediatric topic areas are welcome.
- Only one Stage 1 application per PI will be reviewed. Submit your BEST idea!

USE OF FUNDS:

Funds awarded will not cover travel expenses or computers (unless justified as critical to perform the work), equipment ≥ $2K, indirect or administrative costs. Subawards to other institutions or organizations are not allowed.

SUBMISSIONS:

Proposals should be sent as a single pdf to Emily Kukacka (kukac003@umn.edu), and should be single spaced, with ½ inch margins and Arial 11 point font.

STAGE 1. For this stage, 20 grants will be awarded at $5,000 each to be used from March 1 to May 31, 2019. The deadline for submission of Stage 1 proposals is February 18, 2019 at 4:00pm.

Preparation of proposal: This must be no more than ½ page total (yes, only half a page) and include the following:

a. Title of the Project
b. Investigator/Division
c. Your research mentor
d. One paragraph describing your idea, the steps required, and the first small milestone to be achieved within the 3-month timeframe (eg. optimize a reagent, create a database, write a protocol to submit to the IRB, create a vector, create a survey, demonstrate feasibility to isolate a cell population, CAD for a medical device)
e. A clear statement of the impact of the work
f. Please indicate if you already have IRB, IBC and/or IACUC approvals if applicable (or if pending)

NO preliminary data (we are just interested in great ideas at this Stage).
NO biosketch
NO budget
**STAGE 2.** Only Stage 1 awardees are eligible, and only one Stage 2 application per PI will be reviewed. For this stage, **10 grants** will be awarded at **$10,000** each to be used from August 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020. The deadline for e-submission of Stage 2 proposals is **July 15, 2019** at 4:00pm.

**Preparation of proposal:** This must be no more than **1 page total** and include the following:

a. Title of the Project  
b. Investigator/Division  
c. Your research mentor  
d. One paragraph describing your idea and the outcome of the small milestone proposed in Stage 1, any obstacles encountered, and how the funds were used.  
e. One paragraph describing your plan to achieve a second milestone within the 6-month timeframe of Stage 2. You may include 1 table or figure as preliminary data. Please indicate what the next step will be if Stage 2 is accomplished.  
f. A clear statement of the impact of the work  
g. A brief budget indicating how the funds will be used (NOT on NIH template)  
h. Please indicate if you already have IRB, IBC and/or IACUC approvals if applicable (or if pending)

NO biosketch

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**STAGE 3.** Only Stage 2 awardees are eligible, and only one Stage 3 application per PI will be reviewed. For this Stage, **5 grants** will be awarded at **$20,000** each to be used from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The deadline for e-submission of Stage 3 proposals is **March 16, 2020** at 4:00pm.

**Preparation of proposal:** Items a-g must be no more than **2 pages total** and include the following:

a. Title of the Project  
b. Investigator/Division  
c. Your research mentor  
d. Specific aim for Stage 3 (max ½ page) to be accomplished within the 9-month timeframe  
e. Significance and Innovation  
f. Description of Proposed Research: include rationale with preliminary data and outcomes of Stages 1 and 2 (along with any obstacles encountered), study design, analytic/statistical considerations, anticipated results, pitfalls and alternative plans. Please indicate what the next step will be if Stage 3 is accomplished.  
g. A clear statement of the impact of the work

In addition, and not included in the above page limit, please add:

h. References  
i. How the funds from Stage 2 were used, and if plans were altered  
j. A brief budget with justification indicating how the Stage 3 funds will be used (NOT on NIH template)  
k. 5-page NIH Biosketch of the PI  
l. IRB, IBC and/or IACUC approvals if applicable (or if pending)
**STAGE 4.** Only Stage 3 awardees are eligible, and only one Stage 4 application per PI will be reviewed. For this stage, **1 grant** will be awarded at **$100,000** to be used from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The deadline for e-submission of Stage 4 proposals is **March 1, 2021** at 4:00pm.

**Preparation of proposal:** Items a-g must be no more than **4 pages total** and include the following:

- a. Title of the Project
- b. Investigator/Division
- c. Your research mentor
- d. Specific aim(s) for Stage 4 (max 1 page) to be accomplished within the 12-month timeframe
- e. Significance and Innovation
- f. Description of Proposed Research: include rationale with preliminary data and outcomes of Stages 1, 2, & 3 (along with any obstacles encountered), study design, analytic/statistical considerations, anticipated results, pitfalls and alternative plans.
- g. A clear statement of the impact of the work

In addition, and not included in the above page limit, please add:

- h. References
- i. How the funds from Stage 3 were used, and if plans were altered
- j. NIH-style budget with justification indicating how the Stage 4 funds will be used (use NIH template). Contact RSS for assistance ASAP.
- k. 5-page NIH Biosketch of the PI(s) and Co-I(s)
- l. IRB, IBC and/or IACUC approvals if applicable (or if pending)

**Review:** Proposals for all Stages will be reviewed by the Pediatrics Research Council for scientific merit and impact.

**Reporting Requirements:**
The Principal Investigator(s) of the funded Stage 4 project will be required to provide a final progress report and financial report of all funds expended within 60 days after the end of the one-year award period.

Any awardees who are unable to complete their milestones (thus eliminating them from applying to subsequent Stages) will be asked to provide a description and explanation of the obstacles encountered. This will assist the Research Council to evaluate and address these issues.

**Contact information:**
Programmatic questions should be directed to Dr. Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari (panos001@umn.edu)
Administrative, budget, and instructions questions should be directed to Emily Kukacka (kukac003@umn.edu)