

Mayo Clinic and University of Central Florida request for applications

The Mayo Clinic and University of Central Florida (UCF) Convergence Pilot Project Program aims to stimulate collaboration and synergistic proposal development among researchers from both institutions. Researchers from UCF and all campuses of Mayo Clinic may submit joint collaborative research projects. These awards are intended to promote convergence science between physical and life sciences, and encourage collaboration between Mayo Clinic and UCF researchers on studies that generate preliminary data used for future extramural grant applications.

The projects should be well-designed pilot studies that have clear milestones, with the expectation that a competitive proposal based on the pilot studies will be submitted to an extramural, peer-review agency or foundation within 18 months. This new proposal must have a total budget of at least ten times the amount of the pilot project investment.

Eligibility Criteria

UCF research and tenure-track or equivalent faculty, and Mayo Clinic consultant, senior associate consultant, and associate consultant faculty are eligible to apply.

- Proposals are sought from any health-related field of study including cancer, neurosciences, transplant, cardiovascular diseases, individualized medicine, regenerative medicine or health care delivery.
- Projects can involve, but are not limited to, expertise in nano-biotechnology, optics and photonics, biomedical engineering, and computer science.
- There must be a researcher from each organization involved in the proposed project. Collaboration between Mayo and UCF faculty must be equal on intellectual merit/input. For example, Mayo participation cannot be limited to only providing samples. The site of the work may be at either Mayo Clinic or UCF, or both.

Award Amounts

Award amounts of up to \$40,000 can be requested.

Application Process and Deadlines

Required letter of intent: ***June 15, 2017, 11:59 pm EDT***

Proposal: ***July 17 2017, 11:59 pm EDT***

Award notification: ***October 2, 2017***

Research proposals should be submitted electronically to both Dr. Debra Reinhart, UCF (Debra.Reinhart@ucf.edu) and Sharon Collins, Mayo Clinic (Collins.Sharon1@mayo.edu) in **one single** PDF document. The proposals should contain the following:

- Names and titles of **project personnel** and a list of key personnel
- NIH-style **biosketches** for PI and Co-PI only (five-page limit per biosketch). A summary of other key personnel may be included, in addition to the PI and Co-PI biosketches (one-page limit for key personnel)
- **Specific Aims**
- **Research Strategy** (three-page limit) The strategy section should be organized as follows:
 - *Project Summary*, including a clearly stated hypothesis (limited to one paragraph),
 - *Background* (appropriately referenced with no more than one page of references); References will **not** count toward the three-page limit for Research Strategy)
 - *Approach* to achieve aims/methods (detailed research plan)

- *Achievable Milestones* (showing that the key components of the research will be completed in 12-18 months; preferable timeline is 12 months)
- *Plan of Collaboration* between Mayo Clinic and UCF (detail how each collaborator will significantly contribute to the scientific examination of the research topic)
- *Plan to seek external funding* support (explain how the key results of this project will support efforts to obtain new extramural funding support; Be specific about the funding agencies that are potentially interested in supporting the Mayo Clinic and UCF joint efforts, expected budget and submission date)
- *Optional References* (one-page limit not included toward the research strategy page limit)
- **Budget and Budget Justification** (one-page limit) Budget should be distributed equally among Mayo and UCF researchers. Submitted budget should be based on real need. PI compensation, capital equipment costs, and travel costs for scientific meetings are not supported through this mechanism. All budget items and costs must be justified. Do not include overhead costs. Mayo Clinic researchers will need to create formal budgets through the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration (OSPA) only after award selection.

Special Considerations

Proposals that include the following must provide the indicated additional information in a separate document or PDF:

- Animal use (IACUC approval required before award account is set up)
 - Species: List the species and numbers of animals to be used.
 - Procedures: Briefly describe each of the procedures to be performed on live animals.
 - USDA Category of Pain or Distress: List highest USDA Category of Pain and Distress (C, D, or E).
 - IACUC approval: Provide current or pending protocol number and institution.
- Human subjects (IRB approval required before award account is set up)
 - Human Subjects Involvement, Characteristics, and Design: Describe the proposed involvement of human subjects in the work outlined in the Research Strategy section.
 - Potential Risks: Describe the potential risks to subjects (physical, psychological, financial, legal, or other) and assess their likelihood and seriousness to the human subjects.
 - Protections Against Risk: Describe planned procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to privacy of individuals or confidentiality of data, and assess their likely effectiveness.
- Biospecimen transfer must indicate approval of biospecimens or other relevant committees (required before award account is set up).
- Sub awards, consultants or other third party involvement outside of UCF and Mayo: Describe the nature of the relationship and include any flow down obligations (e.g., IP management provisions) that apply due to that third party involvement.

Selection Process

Proposals will be scored by an ad-hoc joint Mayo and UCF review panel based on scientific merit and innovation, evidence of a true collaborative effort with meaningful contributions from all investigators, potential for future external funding and/or product development and feasibility of executing the project

based on team, budget, equipment, space, resources, etc. Partial funding for a proposal may be recommended by the review committee. Priority will be given to projects with the greatest likelihood of enhancing future collaboration between UCF and all Mayo Clinic campuses. The final selection of proposals to be funded will be made by senior leadership at UCF and Mayo Clinic. Activation of awards will be contingent upon receipt of all required approvals.

Identification of Collaborators

For more information on identifying UCF collaborators, visit the following websites:

[College of Medicine](#)

[College of Engineering & Computer Science](#)

[College of Sciences](#)

[Nanoscience Technology Center](#)

[College of Optics & Photonics](#)

[Institute of Simulation & Training](#)

[Advanced Materials Processing and Analysis Center](#)

[Center for Research in Computer Vision](#)

[Multidisciplinary Research Clusters](#)

For scientific questions or assistance in identifying a potential collaborator, please contact:

UCF:

Debra Reinhart, PhD

(407) 823-2315

Debra.Reinhart@ucf.edu

Mayo Clinic:

Sharon Collins

(904) 953-7283

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