

Corporate & Foundation Relations

Development & Alumni Affairs

Limited Submission Announcement



Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award

Overview:

The Smith Family Foundation Odyssey Award was created in 2017 to fuel creativity and innovation in **junior investigators in the basic sciences**. The Award supports the pursuit of high impact ideas to generate breakthroughs and drive new directions in biomedical research. The awards will fund high-risk, high-reward pilot projects solicited from our brightest junior faculty in the region.

Award Background:

- **Amount:** Up to \$300,000 (\$150,000/year over 2 years)
- **Grant Period:** July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021
- **Number of applications per institution:** 2
- **Number of awards:** Up to 5

Eligibility/Funding Priorities:

- The two-year award supports established junior faculty engaged in basic biomedical research.
- Investigators in the physical sciences (physics, chemistry, and engineering) whose projects focus on biomedical science are also encouraged to apply.
- Clinical research is beyond the scope of this program and is not eligible.
- Research projects must be conducted at the University, not an affiliated location.

- Collaboration is an additional, but not required, positive ancillary factor.
 - These projects may involve researchers within and/or outside the applicant's institution.
- Full-time independent faculty who have not yet achieved tenure or its equivalent by the funding date of July 1, 2019 are eligible.
 - Applicants must have received their first independent faculty appointment on or between July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2015.
- Applicants are ineligible if, at the time of application, they have combined federal and non-federal funding totaling \$750,000 or more in direct costs.
 - This figure refers to external funding only and not an applicant's start-up package, other intramural support, or the Smith Award.

Deadlines

Internal: February 1, 2019

External: March 18, 2019

Internal Application Process

Up to two candidates will be selected from UMass Amherst to submit to this opportunity. The internal selection process will be informed by the [grant program's guidelines and submission requirements](#) and led by a committee composed of the deans of applicants' respective schools and colleges or their designees and, if necessary, the Provost, Vice Chancellor for Research Engagement, and/or faculty with relevant expertise.

If you are interested in applying, please send the following items as a **single PDF** by **Friday, February 1, 2019** to cfr@umass.edu.

Concept Paper Guidelines

- In header: include name, department, email address, phone number, and title of proposal.
 - A concept paper (2 pages max.) outlining:
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and Significance
 - Preliminary Data (if available)
 - Research Design and Methods
 - Potential Limitations
 - Project Timeline
 - Collaborators (if any)
 - A list of current and pending support
 - NIH Biosketch or CV
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Additional Information

The Scientific Review Committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications:

- Impact potential of the research for generating breakthroughs and driving new directions in biomedical research;
- A clearly stated hypothesis, based on sound precedents, rationale and supported by relevant literature;
- Preliminary data may be minimal;
- Objectives that are technically feasible and personnel who are qualified to carry out the proposed research;
- Applicant's potential to successfully carry out innovative research;
- Institutional commitment to her/him.

For additional information, visit [the programs' website](#). If you have technical questions about the grant program or your eligibility, please contact [Liz Smith](#) in [Corporate and Foundation Relations](#).

Please click on the following links for more information
on funding opportunities:

[On-Campus Funding Opportunities](#)
[Funding for New or Early Career Faculty](#)

You can find additional information on the CFR Website:

[Private Foundation Limited Submission Opportunities](#)
[Grant Writing Tips and Suggestions](#)