We're here to assist you!

The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR) assists UMass faculty and staff with non-governmental, institutional grant opportunities. For more information on the types of assistance we provide, please visit the Services page on our website.

For all grant opportunities requiring a 501(c)3 submission, we will arrange applying through the University of Massachusetts Foundation. This 501(c)3 process has strict timelines; please contact our office as early as possible to assure that the funder’s deadline can be met.

To request an addition to or removal from this notice and for general questions, please contact CFR staff at cfr@admin.umass.edu. For additional assistance and referrals, contact Director Liz Smith, or Director Michael Stein. Please share widely.

I. Engineering, Science & Medical
II. Nursing & Public Health
III. Education, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences
IV. Fellowships
I. Engineering, Science & Medical

1. A Kid's Brain Tumor Cure PLGA Foundation
   Research Grant
   Deadline (LOI): Rolling
   Amount: $100,000-$500,000
   Number of Grants/Year: 2-5
   Eligibility: Investigators from all over the world are invited to submit a letter of intent (LOI). No grants will be made to private individuals.

   Proposals related to basic and translational projects that can advance understanding of the underlying biology of the development and treatment of Pediatric Low Grade Astrocytoma (PLGA) tumors will be considered. Investigators in the early years of their careers are encouraged to apply.

2. American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Health Foundation
   General Canine Health RFP
   Deadline: March 8, 2017
   Amount:
   - Acorn: $15,000
   - Oak: $100,000
   Number of Grants/Year: N/A
   Eligibility:
   The AKC Canine Health Foundation supports basic and clinical research into general canine health and well-being through its General Health Research Program Area. Subjects of emphasis within this program include genetics, mechanisms of disease, pathology and molecular basis of disease, and clinical application of research findings to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of canine diseases. Collaborative, multi-disciplinary teams of investigators who can approach research from a multi-'omics' perspective will be considered more competitive than investigators working in isolation.

   The AKC Canine Health Foundation embraces a "One-Health" translational approach to investigations for comparative medicine that will benefit both dogs and their people. Funding is available to address diseases that impact the health of Miniature Schnauzers, but need not be limited to this breed alone. Proposals should include specific information on the relevance of the proposal to the Miniature Schnauzer breed, e.g., actual or estimated disease prevalence in Miniature Schnauzers and/or possible genetic mechanisms of the disease in this breed.

3. Buckminster Fuller Institute (BFI)
   Fuller Challenge
   Deadline: March 31, 2017
   Amount: $100,000
   Number of Grants/Year: 1
   Eligibility: Initiatives representing a range of development stages may enter-from early stage proposals with completed proof-of-concept to fully operating models ready to expand. Entries can tackle urgent needs at a range of geographic scales-from strategies designed to launch global initiatives tailored to local or regional conditions that can be adapted and replicated elsewhere. Nonprofit, for-profit, and hybrid initiatives all are eligible.

   Entries must meet the following criteria:
   - Visionary - It puts forth an original idea or synthesizes existing ideas into a new strategy that creatively addresses a critical need.
   - Comprehensive - It applies a whole-systems approach to all facets of the design and implementation process and aims to simultaneously address multiple goals, requirements, and conditions.
   - Anticipatory - It factors in critical future trends and needs as well as the projected impacts of a project's implementation in the short- and long-term.
Ecologically Responsible - It reflects nature’s underlying principles while enhancing systems that support life on Earth.

Feasible - It demonstrates proof-of-concept and relies on existing technology and/or proven science, has a solid team in place, and/or demonstrates a convincing capacity to implement the project.

Verifiable - It is able to withstand rigorous empirical testing and provide evidence for potential or actual positive impacts while making authentic claims.

Replicable - It is able to scale and be widely adapted to similar conditions elsewhere.

The Fuller Challenge calls for a design revolution to address and solve our most complex and entrenched human-created problems. BFI looks for visionary whole-systems solutions that demonstrate both a clear grasp of the "big picture" and a focus on a well-defined need of critical importance. Strategies that put forth models designed to optimize conditions from inception in order to create the most desirable, sustainable, regenerative future outcome are preferred.

4. Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP)
Program Grants
Deadline: March 30, 2017
Amount: Up to $1,350,000 over 3 years
Number of Grants/Year: 5-10
Eligibility: The principal applicant of a research grant must have a laboratory in a member country. All teams are expected to direct a research group, and they must have a doctoral degree. The HFSP award is not intended to create scientific independence, this is a decision of the research institute prior to the application. The research teams must be international. The principal applicant must be from one of the eligible countries. However, other participating scientists and laboratories may be situated anywhere in the world.

Research grants are provided for teams of scientists from different countries who wish to combine their expertise in innovative approaches to questions that could not be answered by individual laboratories. Emphasis is placed on novel collaborations that bring together scientists preferably from different disciplines (e.g. from chemistry, physics, computer science, engineering) to focus on problems in the life sciences.

5. The Klarman Family Foundation
Eating Disorders Research Grants Program
Deadline: March 14, 2017
Amount:

- **Pilot Studies** - Up to $150,000 for 1 year
- **Research Projects** - Up to $250,000 for 1-3 years

Number of Grants/Year: 10-15
Eligibility: Applicants must hold a faculty appointment at a nonprofit academic, medical or research institution in the United States, Canada, or Israel.

In this application round we are limiting the focus of our grants program to research that directly investigates the underlying biology of anorexia nervosa, and the questions of how and why it develops and persists. We also strongly encourage applications that bridge the gap between human and animal research, and collaborative applications with deep engagement of both neuroscientists and clinical researchers. Any clinical proposals must be grounded in the basic biology and neuroscience of anorexia nervosa. In this round we will also consider human imaging studies that are directly relevant to the biology of anorexia nervosa.

6. National Ataxia Foundation (NAF)
NAF Research Grants
Deadline (LOI): July 17 2017
Amount: Up to $30,000
Number of Grants/Year: 5-10
Eligibility: Applicants for seed-money grants need to be faculty members.
NAF invites research applications from U.S.A. and International non-profit and for-profit institutions. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for a research grant from NAF.

7. National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS)

Pilot Research Grants
Deadline: April 5, 2017
Amount: Up to $44,000 for 1 year
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: Researchers who have completed their post-doctoral training are invited to apply. Individuals who are currently postdoctoral fellows or the equivalent, or who are graduate/medical students are not eligible for support under this program.

Funds high-risk pilot grants to quickly test novel ideas. Funding provided to test innovative, cutting-edge ideas or untested methods, and to gather sufficient preliminary data to apply for longer-term funding. Applications for studies related to multiple sclerosis (MS) that may serve to advance the NMSS mission of stopping MS progression, restoring function and improving quality of life, and preventing MS. The Society supports fundamental as well as applied studies, non-clinical or clinical in nature, including projects in patient management, care and rehabilitation.

8. Organization for Autism Research (OAR)

Applied Research Competition
Deadline: March 27, 2017
Amount: Up to $30,000 for 2 years
Number of Grants/Year: Up to 8
Eligibility: No eligibility requirements

Through this competition, OAR intends to promote evidence-based practices delivered from research in the following areas:

- The analysis, evaluation, or comparison of current models of assessment, intervention, or systems of service delivery, including policy analysis
- Applied aspects of educational, behavioral, or social/communicative intervention
- Effective intervention across the lifespan for individuals considered to be severely impacted by autism
- Adult issues such as continuing education, employment, residential supports, sexuality instruction, quality-of-life determinants, and "later intervention"
- Issues related to family support, social and community integration, assessment and intervention with challenging behavior, and the use of technology in support of learners with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

OAR seeks to fund studies that expand the body of knowledge related to autism intervention and treatment, produce practical and clearly objective results, have the potential to impact public policy, and provide outcomes that offer to enhance quality of life for persons with autism and their families. While applicants are always free to submit on any relevant area of research or intervention, this year, OAR is placing an emphasis on research that addresses the following targeted areas: augmentative and alternative communication, community-based intervention, behavioral economics, and effective staff training.

9. Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)

Explorer Awards RFA
Deadline: Rolling
Amount: Up to $70,000 for 1 year
Number of Grants/Year: 2-10
Eligibility: All applicants and key collaborators must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility. Applications may be submitted by domestic and foreign nonprofit organizations; public and private institutions, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local government; and eligible agencies of the federal government. There are no citizenship or country requirements.

The mission of the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) is to improve the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.
(ASD) by funding innovative research of the highest quality and relevance.

This award program is designed to enhance our existing support of autism research by providing timely resources to enable focused experiments highly relevant to our mission. A deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying autism spectrum disorders or potential therapeutic approaches will require investigation at multiple levels, including but not limited to studies focused on gene discovery, molecular mechanisms, circuits, anatomy, and cognition and behavior. We will consider proposals at all of these levels.

10. When Everyone Survives (WES) Foundation
RFP in Leukemia Research
Deadline: March 1, 2017
Amount: $50,000 for one year
Number of Grants/Year: 2-4
Eligibility: N/A

Grants are offered to new and established investigators who are requesting support for laboratory, translational, or clinical research related to acute leukemia.

II. Nursing & Public Health

11. The Gerber Foundation
Pediatric Research Projects
Deadline (Concept Paper): June 1, 2017
Amount: Up to $350,000 over 3 years
Number of Grants/Year: 10-15
Eligibility: Organizations recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) are eligible to apply for Foundation grants. Public governmental institutions such as universities are included in this definition. Organizations must also be determined not to be private foundations under Internal Revenue Code 509. No grants are made to individuals. With few exceptions, only organizations with principal operations in the United States and its territories are eligible for funding. Within the United States, there is no geographic limitation to the Foundation’s grant making.

Accepting concept papers for health and/or nutrition-related research projects with potential to have a significant impact on issues affecting infants and young children from birth to three years of age. The foundation awards grants for research projects focused on issues faced by care providers that, when implemented, will improve health, nutrition, and/or developmental outcomes for infants and young children. Projects may address etiologic mechanisms of disease; new, improved, or less invasive diagnostic procedures; reduction or elimination of side effects; alleviation of symptoms; new, improved, or less invasive therapies or treatments; dosage or dosing requirements or mechanisms for drugs, nutrient supplementation, or other therapeutic measures (under or overdosing); and preventative measures. Priority is given to projects offering substantial promise of meaningful advances in prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as those with broad applicability to the general population on a regional or national level.

III. Education, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences

12. American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)
Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs Grants for Universities
Deadline: March 23, 2017
Amount: Up to $60,000
Number of Grants/Year: Up to 3
Eligibility: Project’s principal investigator must be a scholar in a field of the humanities and social sciences or journalism. Projects must be hosted by a US-based university.
The Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs (RJIA) aims to increase the presence of scholarship on religion in journalistic training and practice and to encourage greater interaction between scholars of religion and journalists covering international affairs. RJIA is a two-pronged initiative: one component of this program offers grants to support cross-sector collaborations at universities with strengths in the study of religion, journalism and media, and international affairs; the second component is a competition for research fellowships awarded to humanities and social science scholars engaged with the study of religion who wish to develop the capacities and interdisciplinary networks necessary to relate their specialist knowledge to media and policy audiences interested in the world affairs. The grants will support efforts to catalyze collaborations at universities with strengths in the study of religion, journalism and media, and international affairs.

Grant Program for Projects on Multicultural Activities
Deadline: May 5, 2017
Amount: Up to $15,000
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: This RFP competition is open to clinical and/or school-based speech, language, and hearing programs; university programs; state associations; allied and related professional organizations. An ASHA member must serve as project director.

This grant program provides support for the infusion of multiculturalism into our clinical, educational, and professional programs; and the activities of allied/related associations and organizations.

Projects must:

- Have a multicultural focus.
- Be compatible with ASHA’s mission and vision
- Have a clear, high-quality plan for meeting its objectives
- Be completed, including evaluation, within 15 months of initiation of the project
- Describe the future of the project after ASHA funding has ended

14. Group Foundation
Advancing Mental Health Research Grant Application
Deadline: November 1, 2017
Amount: Up to $15,000
Number of Grants/Year: 2
Eligibility: Grant funding can be used to support the basic costs of research, e.g., supplies, research equipment, photocopying, postage, computer services, statistical consultation and research assistant salaries; investigator salaries and travel expenses are not funded.

Funds are available from the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health to support research that demonstrates the effectiveness of group psychotherapy. The Group Psychotherapy Foundation is seeking research-focused, rather than program-focused, applications.

15. Kessler Foundation
Signature Employment Grants
Deadline: March 17, 2017
Amount: Up to $500,000 for 2 years
Number of Grants/Year: 3-6
Eligibility: Any organization recognized as a tax-exempt entity according to the Internal Revenue Code may apply for funding. This includes non-profit agencies, public or private schools, and public institutions, such as universities and governmental entities (state, local, federal) based in the United States or any of its territories. Kessler Foundation will not fund projects that discriminate in hiring staff or providing services on basis of race, gender, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or national origin. Organizations employing a large number of staff members self-identifying as having a
disability will be scored higher. A proven track record managing and participating in collaborative grant projects is also desirable.

Signature Employment Grants are awarded nationally to fund new pilot initiatives, demonstration projects, or social ventures that lead to the generation of new ideas to solve the high unemployment and underemployment of individuals with disabilities. Preference is given for interventions that overcome specific employment barriers related to long-term dependence on public assistance or advance competitive employment in a cost-effective manner. Collaborating, braiding or leveraging grant funding with other public and private monies, especially sources not typically funding disability, e.g. community or economic development funds, is encouraged. All funded projects will be data driven, evidenced based projects, with real-time feedback to refine systems and processes.

IV. Fellowships

Please note: CFR cannot assist with fellowships that are not funneled through OGCA.

16. American Academy in Rome

Rome Prize
Deadline: November 15, 2017
Amount:

- Half-term: $16,000
- Full-term: $28,000
- Two-year fellowship: $56,000

Number of Grants/Year: 2-6 for each category

Eligibility:

- Applicants for all Rome Prize Fellowships, except those applying for the National Endowment for the Humanities post-doctoral fellowship, must be United States citizens at the time of the application.
- U.S citizens, and those foreign nationals who have lived in the United States for three years immediately proceeding the application deadline, may apply for the NEH post-doctoral fellowships in Ancient Studies, Medieval Studies, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, or Modern Italian Studies.
- Graduate students in the humanities may apply only for pre-doctoral fellowships only if they are ABD.
- Previous winners of the Rome Prize are not eligible to re-apply.
- Undergraduate students are not eligible for Rome Prize fellowships.

Fellowships are awarded in the following disciplines:

- Ancient Studies
- Architecture
- Design (includes graphic, industrial, interior, exhibition, set, costume, and fashion design, urban design, city planning, engineering, and other design fields)
- Historic Preservation and Conservation
- Landscape Architecture (includes environmental design and planning, landscape/ecological urbanism, landscape history, sustainability and ecological studies, and geography)
- Literature (includes fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry)
- Medieval Studies
- Modern Italian Studies
- Musical Composition
- Renaissance and Early Modern Studies
- Visual Arts (includes painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, film/video, installation, new media, digital arts, and other visual arts fields)

Recipients of a full-term Rome Prize Fellowship are invited to Rome for approximately eleven months. Half-term fellowships (lasting about 5-months) are offered in Design and Historic Preservation & Conservation. Applicants in Architecture and Landscape
Architecture have a choice of either full- or half-term fellowships. Pre-doctoral applicants in the field of art history may apply for a two-year fellowship.

**17. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

**Interdisciplinary Research Leaders**

**Deadline:** March 8, 2017

**Amount:** Up to $350,000 over 3 years

**Number of Grants/Year:** N/A

**Eligibility:**

- The applicant must be an organization based in the United States or its territories.
- Applicants should have the administrative and financial capacity and experience to accept the award and to be able to distribute funds consistent with the permitted use of funds described herein, and within the approved budget.
- Applicants must be represented by a three-person team that will participate in grant activities. Each team must be comprised of three mid-career individuals: two researchers and one community partner. We define "researchers" as people with a terminal degree in their field (e.g., PhD) or extensive research or evaluation experience. The third individual must be a non-researcher "community partner." We define community partners as individuals with close ties to a community of interest who do not regularly engage in research as a main function of their job; these individuals must have the potential to take action on the issue themselves or have relationships with entities that can take action. There are no strict rules for who is or is not mid-career, but we anticipate that mid-career applicants have approximately five years of high-quality experience and are not within 10 years of retirement.

The broad goal of the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) program is to produce diverse interdisciplinary leaders who conduct and apply high-quality, community-engaged, action-oriented, equity-focused health research in order to drive improvements in the health of communities. Accordingly, the program will recruit and select applicants represented by teams of three people ("IRL team"): two mid-career researchers and one community member to become IRL program fellows. IRL teams will represent the grantee in this program and join together as a diverse cohort of fellows that will participate in a three-year program. During this time, fellows will receive: leadership training; the opportunity to learn and apply cutting-edge research methods; expert mentoring; networking opportunities; and fellowship and research funds, so that they may better effect change and become the next generation of leaders in population health and health equity research.

**Clinical Scholars**

**Deadline:** March 8, 2017

**Amount:** Up to $105,000 over 3 years

**Number of Grants/Year:** N/A

**Eligibility:**

- The applicant must be an organization based in the United States or its territories.
- Applicants should have the administrative and financial capacity, as well as the experience, to accept the award and to be able to distribute funds consistent with the permitted use of funds described herein, and within the approved budget.
- To apply, applicant organizations must assemble an interprofessional team of two to five members representing different health professions. Teams may consist of members from within the same or across different organizations. Teams may have a history of working together or be newly formed to address the wicked problem impact project.

The Clinical Scholars program is a three-year leadership program for clinically active health care providers and practitioners spanning a range of professions. The program aims to provide providers with the opportunity to build and develop the unique skills they need to lead communities and organizations toward a Culture of Health. Strong applicants include a team that will bring a knowledge of and experience in the art and science of health care services, a unique perspective as providers in health and health
care systems, and understand the special professional status and relationship with patients and communities.

Request Support from CFR!

The CFR Support Request Form is organized to reflect the order and type of information that most foundations look for in their grant applications. It can help you better frame your ideas and create a more consistent structure for your letter of intent (LOI) or funding request. Follow the link and get started today!

Tips for Grant Writing!

Please read "100 Words That Kill Your Proposal," by Bob Lohfeld. This article will help you avoid some of the most common mistakes that weaken a proposal.

Look at "Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals" to better understand the contrast between traditional academic writing and grant proposals.

Also check out "How to Fail at Grant Writing," an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education, written by UMass faculty successful at obtaining grants.

For more help, and a step-by-step walk through, read Texas Instruments' "Successful Grant Writing Strategies."

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