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. Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF)

Innovation Grant
Deadline (LOI): December 15, 2017
Amount: Up to $250,000 over 2 years
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility:

- Applicants must have a faculty appointment at an academic institution
- Applicant may be MD, DO, PhD, or MD/PhD
- Track record of publication and funding productivity in the last 5 years must demonstrate that the project can be accomplished by the investigator(s).

Innovation grants are designed as seed funding for researchers with a novel approach to pediatric oncology scientific investigation. This may represent a change in research direction and/or an innovative new idea that moves away from an investigator's prior research but for which a strong case is made for the potential impact on childhood cancers. Innovation Grants will support research proposals to be carried out by investigators who are already established, have a recent track record of peer-reviewed publications and evidence of successfully competing for extramural funding.

2. American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)

Elsevier Gut Microbiome Pilot Research Award
Deadline: January 12, 2018
Amount: $25,000 over 1 year
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility:

- Candidates for this award must hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree (e.g., MBChB, MBBS, DO) and a full-time faculty position at an accredited North American institution.
- AGA membership is required at the time of application submission.
- Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

The objective of this pilot research award is to provide funds for early career investigators to help establish their research careers or to support projects that represent new research directions for established investigators. Projects must focus on the relationship of the gut microbiota to digestive health and disease.

3. American Pain Society

Rita Allen Foundation Award in Pain
Deadline: December 6, 2017
Amount: Up to $150,000 over 3 years
Number of Grants/Year: 2
Eligibility:

- Must have received committed start-up funds and independent laboratory space from their institution and this information must be clearly indicated in the Chair's letter of support for the candidate.
- Should be in the first three years of their appointment.
- Should be appointed to tenure track or equivalent position at their respective institution.
- Must conduct the research and be appointed at an institution in the United States or Canada.
- Must indicate if an application has been submitted for another APS research award and the candidate may accept only one concurrent APS research award.
- A senior post-doc should not be an applicant.
- Associate professors should not be an applicant.

Proposed research projects should be directed towards the molecular biology of pain and/or basic science topics related to the development of new analgesics for the management of pain due to terminal illness.

4. American Tinnitus Association (ATA)
The ATA Research Grant supports cutting-edge tinnitus science, with targeted research funding.

5. The Dana Foundation
Clinical Neuroscience Research Grant Program
 Deadline: Rolling
 Amount: Up to $300,000 over 3 years
 Number of Grants/Year: N/A
 Eligibility: The Clinical Neuroscience Research program accepts preliminary proposals from clinical researchers at international institutions. Researchers at any stage of their research careers may apply if they have a faculty appointment. You may apply regardless of whether you have NIH grants so long as the Dana submission has no overlap with those grants.

The Program focuses on:

- Translating promising animal model interventions or clinical observations for treating devastating brain conditions or injuries into small-sale studies in humans with these conditions to see if the intervention shows any effect, and designing neuroethical guidelines for such studies
- Identifying functions of specific neurons and neural networks involved in brain diseases or injuries and developing therapeutic interventions to alter these
- Assessing outcomes of the effects of various therapies used to treat brain injuries, such as stroke. The program also occasionally considers studies of complex cognitive processes, such as creativity.

6. Earlier.org - Friends For An Earlier Breast Cancer Test
Research Grants
 Deadline: December 15, 2017
 Amount: Up to $40,000 over up to 3 years
 Number of Grants/Year: 4-5
 Eligibility: Applications are accepted from both established investigators who have funding but want to embark on a research in a new area, as well as those less experienced. In either case, the proposal should represent a new approach to the area of interest. Funds will not be awarded to enhance ongoing research unless it is clear that a new line of inquiry is being explored.

Funds are awarded to pilot projects that focus on new methods to improve detection of early breast cancer. Projects that aim to develop new techniques in the areas of biological or immunologic methods of early detection are especially encouraged.

7. Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer
Scientific Scholar Awards in Ovarian Cancer Research
 Deadline: December 1, 2017
 Amount: $120,000 over 2 years
 Number of Grants/Year: ~2
 Eligibility: Potential candidates will have an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree with career goals focused on ovarian cancer. Clinicians will have completed their residency. Candidates should be at the post-doc/fellow, instructor, research assistant, or assistant professor level with no more than 3-4 years in any of these positions. Established, outstanding scientists without prior focus in ovarian cancer but looking to focus in this disease area are also encouraged to apply.

The Scientific Scholar Awards are intended to assist promising laboratory and clinical scientists in pursuing a career as an independent investigator in ovarian cancer
Pilot Studies in Ovarian Cancer Research

**Deadline:** December 1, 2017  
**Amount:** $75,000 over 1 year  
**Number of Grants/Year:** ~12  
**Eligibility:** Investigators at the assistant, associate or full professor level (or equivalent) are encouraged to apply

The Pilot Study Program awards will support investigator-initiated projects in all areas of ovarian cancer research. In addition, projects designed to analyze data from already funded clinical trials will be considered.

Funding priority will be given to proposals that are:

- Innovative  
- Multidisciplinary  
- Likely leading to submission of grant applications for independently funded investigations  
- Conveying translational research potential

8. Simons Foundation

Collaboration Grants for Mathematicians

**Deadline:** January 31, 2018  
**Amount:** $84,000 over 5 years  
**Number of Grants/Year:** Up to 140  
**Eligibility:**  
To be eligible to apply, an individual must:

- Have a Ph.D. degree and hold a tenure-track or tenured position, or be a professor emeritus, within a mathematics department with a Ph.D. degree granting program, at an institution of higher education based in the United States;  
- Have a current record of active research and publication in high-quality journals; and  
- Not hold any other external PI or PI equivalent grants of over $3,000 per year that allow for support for travel or visitors during the collaboration grant award period, including active other support with an end date after September 1, 2018.

The Simons Foundation’s Mathematics and Physical Sciences division invites applications for Collaboration Grants for Mathematicians to stimulate collaboration in the field primarily through the funding of travel and related expenditures. The goal of the program is to support the “mathematical marketplace” by substantially increasing collaborative contacts between mathematicians. The foundation will make a large number of collaboration grants to accomplished, active researchers in the United States who do not otherwise have access to funding that allows support for travel and visitors.

9. Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)

Pilot Awards

**Deadline (LOI):** December 1, 2017  
**Amount:** Up to $330,000 over 2 years  
**Number of Grants/Year:** 15-25  
**Eligibility:** All applicants and key collaborators must hold a PhD, MD or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility. In addition, eligible applicants must have independent lab space at their institution. Applications may be submitted by domestic and foreign nonprofit organizations; public and private institutions, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, and units of state and local government; and eligible agencies of the federal government. There are no citizenship or country requirements. Pilot Awards are intended for investigators who are requesting support for small-scale projects or early-stage experiments that will build on preliminary data or a prior track
I. Nursing & Public Health

11. Hearing Health Foundation (HHF)

Emerging Research Grants

Deadline: December 1, 2017
Amount: Up to $30,000 over 1 year
Number of Grants/Year: 9-14

Eligibility:

- Applicants must hold an MD, PhD, AuD, or an equivalent degree
- Applicants should demonstrate experience and strong research training as well as sufficient institutional support (facilities, time, and mentorship) to carry out the proposed work
- If the applicant is a post-doctoral fellow, it is expected that he or she be at the senior level (e.g., 3 or more years of post-doctoral training). Further, the applicant must demonstrate in the application that he or she is on a pathway to independence. Specifically, the applicant should indicate how the proposed aims will help with his or her transition toward independence from the mentor, including how the proposed research is distinct from the mentor's research program
- Applicants to be considered young investigator cannot be a current or prior Principal Investigator on a major independent research award (e.g., R00, R03, R21, R01, VA Merit, DoD, or equivalent). Prior appointment on fellowship/training grants, or prior service as a Principal Investigator on a mentored career development award, is allowable
- Principal investigators in early stages of independent research careers will receive top priority for funding
- The applicant must hold an appointment at a non-profit educational, governmental or research institution within the U.S. Appointments may include faculty, postdoctoral fellow, or clinical/research fellow. Graduate students and medical residents are not eligible to serve as Principal Investigators
- The proposed research must address one of the hearing and balance topics advertised in the ERG Request for Applications. In the application, the applicant...
must provide justification for the relevance of the proposed research to the designated ERG topic area

The primary purpose of the HHF Emerging Research Grant is to enable the investigator to become established and/or to produce quality research that will allow him/her to successfully compete for NIH Grants or grants from other sources. Applications will be considered for research directed to investigation of specified research topic areas of the auditory and vestibular systems; both fundamental and clinical research proposals are welcome. Applications must only be submitted in one of the stated research topic areas below. Applications outside of these areas will not be considered.

General Hearing Health:

- Physiology of hearing and balance
- Epidemiology of auditory and vestibular disorders
- Human otopathology
- Diagnosis, treatment and prevention of hearing loss and balance disturbance
- Human genetics and mouse models of peripheral and central auditory/balance dysfunction
- Innovation in cellular and molecular therapies
- Auditory and vestibular implants, and hearing aids

Central Auditory Processing Disorders (CAPD):

- Normal and abnormal auditory processing
- Creating testable models of auditory processing disorders
- Etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of CAPD
- Genetics of CAPD
- Development of screening tools and diagnostic tests for CAPD including behavioral, physiologic and neuroimaging
- Language, music, learning and communication issues related to CAPD

Hearing Loss in Children:

- Etiology of childhood hearing loss (e.g., genetic, infectious, traumatic)
- Assessment and diagnosis of childhood hearing loss
- Auditory neuropathy
- Behavioral, cognitive, developmental, and psychosocial consequences of childhood hearing loss
- Impact of early intervention
- Education of the hearing impaired child
- Cochlear implants and Auditory Brainstem Implants in children

Hyperacusis:

- Mechanisms of hyperacusis
- Development of animal models
- Genetics of hyperacusis
- Etiology, diagnosis and treatment of hyperacusis
- Brain imaging, biomarkers, electrophysiology of hyperacusis
- Distinctions between hyperacusis and tinnitus
- Interaction between auditory nerve and trigeminal nerve information

Meniere's Disease:

- Mechanisms of endolympathic hydrops including mechanisms of cochlear fluid regulation
- Genetics of Meniere's disease
- Animal models of Meniere's disease
- Imaging of hydrops
- Etiology, diagnosis and treatment of Meniere's disease
- Vestibular function and dysfunction

Tinnitus:

- Peripheral and central mechanisms
- Role of ion channels, ototoxicity, genetics
- Subjective and objective assessment
- Etiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention
- Imaging of tinnitus

**Usher Syndrome:**
Usher syndrome is characterized hearing loss and retinitis pigmentosa and is the most common cause of combined blindness and deafness. Research focusing on the following areas is of special interest:

- Etiology, diagnosis and treatment of Usher Syndrome
- Genetics of Usher syndrome
- Role of identified genes in hearing and vision
- Creation of mouse models of Usher syndrome
- Development of molecular and cellular therapies

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### III. Education, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences

#### 12. American Psychological Foundation
**David Wechsler Early Career Grant for Innovative Work in Cognition**
**Deadline:** June 15, 2018
**Amount:** Up to $25,000 over 1 year
**Number of Grants/Year:** 1

**Eligibility:**
Applicants must:

- Be a psychologist with an EdD, PsyD or PhD from an accredited university
- Be no more than 10 years post doctoral
- Have demonstrated competence and capacity to execute the proposed work

The David Wechsler Early Career Grant for Innovative Work in Cognition supports early career psychologists pursuing innovative work in neuropsychology, intelligence, and/or the assessment aspects of cognition. Those who work on positive applied neuropsychology are encouraged to apply.

#### 13. Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood
**Requests for Letters of Intent**
**Deadline (LOI):** January 31, 2018
**Amount:** Up to $75,000 over 1 year
**Number of Grants/Year:** N/A

**Eligibility:**
The Foundation will not fund:

- The operation or expansion of existing programs
- The purchase or renovation of capital equipment
- The staging of single events (e.g., concerts, seminars, etc.)
- The creation or acquisition of works of art or literature
- The activities of single individuals or for-profit entities
- Political or religious organizations
- Programs with religious content
- Programs to benefit children residing in foreign countries
- Medical research applicable to both adults and children

The Foundation encourages all theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies, and prevention. Topics of particular interest are as follows:

- Early Childhood Welfare: The Foundation supports projects that seek to perfect child rearing practices and to identify models that can provide creative, caring environments in which all young children thrive.
• Early Childhood Education and Play: The Foundation seeks to improve the quality of both early childhood teaching and learning, through the development of innovative curricula and research based pedagogical standards, as well as the design of imaginative play materials and learning environments.

• Parenting Education: The Foundation supports programs that teach parents about developmental psychology, cultural child rearing differences, pedagogy, issues of health, prenatal care and diet, as well as programs which provide both cognitive and emotional support to parents.

14. McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience
Deadline: December 15, 2017
Amount: $150,000
Number of Grants/Year: 1
Eligibility: Candidates for the award must be nominated by individuals affiliated with universities, hospitals, medical schools, or research institutes, with a background in neuroscience. Self-nomination is not permitted.
Each nomination should include:

• A biosketch or CV of the nominee
• A letter of nomination with a summary and analysis of the major contributions of the nominee to the field of neuroscience
• Up to two representative reprints will be accepted

The Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience is awarded to recognize outstanding advances in the field of neuroscience.

15. Russel Sage Foundation
Social Inequality Program
Deadline (LOI): March 5, 2018
Amount: Up to $150,000 over 2 years
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: All applicants (both PIs and Co-PIs) must have a PhD or comparable terminal degree, or a strong career background that establishes their ability to conduct high-level, peer-reviewed scholarly research. RSF particularly encourages early career scholars to apply for Presidential awards. All nationalities are eligible to apply and applicants do not have to reside in the U.S. RSF does not accept applications for Project and Presidential Awards from doctoral or other graduate students, unless specified in a special RFP.

The Russell Sage Foundation's program on Social Inequality supports innovative research on whether rising economic inequality has affected social, political, and economic institutions, and the extent to which increased inequality has affected equality of opportunity, social mobility, and the intergenerational transmission of advantage. We seek investigator-initiated research projects that will broaden our understanding of the causes and consequences of rising economic inequalities in the United States.

16. Smith Richardson Foundation
Domestic Public Policy Program
Deadline (LOI): Rolling
Amount: Up to $300,000
Number of Grants/Year: Up to 50
Eligibility: The Foundation has a two-stage application process. Initial inquiries should be submitted by mail in the form of the concept paper. Foundation staff will review the concept paper and, if the project is determined to be a good candidate for a grant, will ask an applicant to prepare a full-length proposal.

The Domestic Public Policy Program supports projects that will help the public and policy makers understand and address critical challenges facing the United States. To
that end, the Foundation supports research on and evaluation of existing public policies and programs, as well as projects that inject new ideas into public debates.

17. Spencer Foundation
Conference Grants for Advancing Education Research
Deadline: December 1, 2017
Amount: Up to $50,000 over 1 year
Number of Grants/Year: Up to 7
Eligibility:

- Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-PIs applying for a conference grant must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field, or appropriate experience in an education research-related profession.
- The PI must be affiliated with a college, university, school district, non-profit research facility, or non-profit cultural institution that is willing to serve as the fiscal agent if the grant is awarded. The Spencer Foundation does not award grants directly to individuals.
- Proposals are accepted from the U.S. and internationally, however all proposals must be submitted in English and budgets must be proposed in U.S. Dollars.

The Spencer Foundation's Conference Grant program is designed to provide support to scholars for small research conferences and focused symposia. The conference grant program intends to bring together researchers whose substantive knowledge, theoretical insight, and methodological expertise can be assembled in ways that build upon and advance best practices in education research. Through this grant program, the Foundation rotates the area of focus periodically to generate fresh ideas and perspectives on pressing educational challenges.

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

18. Open Society Foundations
Advocacy Fellowships
Deadline (LOI): December 6, 2017
Amount:

- Track I - $87,000 over 18 months
- Track II - $120,000 over 18 months

Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: All applicants must have at least a high school diploma or its equivalent. The fellowships do not fund enrollment for degree or non-degree study at academic institutions, including dissertation research. Also, as indicated above (see "Time Commitment"), fellows cannot be full-time students during their fellowships.

- Advocacy Track I applicants must have at least two (2) years of relevant experience, which may include: full-time and part-time employment; paid or unpaid internships; sustained volunteer work; or other pertinent experience (e.g. advocacy while incarcerated). Advocacy Track I is for people at a range of phases in their careers, including but not limited to: people just entering the field following post-graduate education; advocates with a few years of work experience; and those beginning to work on criminal justice reform issues after a career in another field or after some other life experience. Individuals who are between the ages of 18 - 25 and who have fewer than two years' experience should consider applying for the Soros Justice Youth Activist Fellowships.
- Advocacy Track II applicants must have at least ten (10) years of relevant advocacy experience. Advocacy Track II is for seasoned, established, and accomplished leaders and experts in the field - ideally people who have distinguished themselves on a local, state or national level; and who have the kind of stature, experience, and capacity necessary to have a meaningful impact on an important criminal justice reform issue.
The Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships fund lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, researchers, and others with unique perspectives to undertake full-time criminal justice reform projects at the local, state, and national levels. Projects may range from litigation to public education to coalition building to grassroots mobilization to policy-driven research.

**Media Fellowships**

**Deadline (LOI):** December 6, 2017  
**Amount:**

- Track I - $58,000 over 1 year  
- Track II - $80,000 over 1 year

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

**Eligibility:** All applicants must have at least a high school diploma or its equivalent. Unlike for the Advocacy Fellowships, Media Fellowship applicants do not have host organizations. While applicants are welcome to explain any relationships or collaborations they may have with specific entities, networks or organizations, the expectation is that Media Fellowship applicants will be operating without any formal connection to an existing organization. Applicants are ideally full-time writers, print or broadcast journalists, filmmakers, artists, or other media makers, with well-established records of publication, exhibition/performance, dissemination, or broadcast in local, regional or national markets, or among targeted audiences or constituencies. Applicants who are not professional writers, journalists, filmmakers, or other types of media makers must demonstrate that they nonetheless have the experience and capacity to accomplish the project. Media Track I applicants must have at least two (2) years of relevant full-time experience. Media Track II applicants must have a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant full-time experience. Applicants with fewer than 10 years of relevant full-time experience may nonetheless be considered for a Media Track II fellowship, provided they can demonstrate that they have truly distinguished themselves over the course of their careers.

The Soros Justice Media Fellowships support writers, print and broadcast journalists, artists, filmmakers, and other individuals with distinctive voices proposing to complete media projects that engage and inform, spur debate and conversation, and catalyze change on important U.S. criminal justice issues. The Media Fellowships aim to mitigate the time, space, and market constraints that often discourage individuals from pursuing vital but marginalized, controversial, or unpopular topics in comprehensive and creative ways.

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**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](#)."