Overview:

The Smith Family Foundation is committed to effecting permanent positive change in the lives of the residents of Greater Boston, particularly individuals and families in economically disadvantaged communities. In the area of health, the Foundation supports the advancement of biomedical research and the expansion of access to high-quality health care at safety net institutions serving low-income individuals and communities of Greater Boston.

The new 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:** $300,000 ($150,000/year); indirect costs may not exceed 5% of direct costs or $7,143 per year
Grant Period: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020
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.
- Applicants who have not yet achieved tenure or its equivalent by the funding date of July 1, 2018 are eligible.
  - They must have received their first independent faculty appointment on or between July 1, 2009 and July 1, 2014.
- 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.

Deadlines

Internal: February 1, 2018
External: March 15, 2018

Internal Application Process

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 Thursday, February 1, 2018 to cfr@admin.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)
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 or Michael Stein 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