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. American Cancer Society (ACS)
Research Grant
Deadline: April 2, 2018
Amount: $800,000 over four years
Number of Grants/Year: 260
Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must be affiliated with a nonprofit institution in the United States, one of its territories, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident of the United States. Independent investigators at all stages of their career are encouraged to apply.

ACS is keenly interested in supporting rapid learning research on the effects of health policy changes on patients, providers, and health systems. This includes but is not limited to facilitators and barriers to care; unintended consequences; differential experiences and outcomes of patients seeking or receiving care; best practice models for quality care; and economic impact.

2. American Diabetes Association (ADA)
Innovative Basic Science Award
Deadline: April 16, 2018
Amount: Up to $345,000 over three years
Number of Grants/Year: 130
Eligibility: Applicant must hold a PhD, MD, PharmD, DO or DPM degree or, for other health professionals, the equivalent doctoral-level health- or science-related degree, and possess the necessary skills and training to carry out the proposed work. Awards are limited to institutions within the United States and U.S. possessions. All investigators must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. Institutional certification of work permission will be required for all funded awards. One person must be specified as the Principal Investigator; multiple PIs/co-PIs are not permitted.

Innovative Basic Science Awards support creative and innovative projects that hold significant promise for advancing the prevention, cure or treatment of diabetes. These awards are intended to support proposals that: 1) are high-risk but have potential for high-impact results, 2) extend existing knowledge into a new area or application, 3) utilize novel technological or cross-disciplinary approaches and/or 4) may not be sufficiently developed for traditional funding sources (e.g., NIH R01). Early and established investigators, including those who have not previously worked in the field of diabetes, may apply for this award.

3. Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
Program to Accelerate Clinical Trials (PACT)
Deadline (LOI): April 13, 2018
Amount: Up to $3,000,000
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: Funding is open to researchers, clinicians, and postdoctoral fellows in the U.S. and worldwide working in:

- Academic medical centers and universities or nonprofits
- Biotechnology companies that demonstrate a clear need for nonprofit funding. Funding is provided through mission-related investments (MRIs) that require return on investment based upon scientific and/or business milestones. Existing companies and new spinouts are both eligible.

The goal of the Program to Accelerate Clinical Trials (PACT) RFP is to increase the number of innovative treatments tested in humans for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This program will fund:

- Clinical trials through Phase 2a of novel drug candidates, including small molecules and biologics (antibodies, oligonucleotides, peptides, gene therapies, cell therapies)
- Proof-of-concept biomarker-based trials in patients for repurposed/repositioned drugs
- Regulatory studies for investigational new drug (IND)/clinical trial application (CTA) preclinical packages that are required before testing novel drugs in human subjects

4. Angelman Syndrome Foundation (ASF)
Research Grants
Deadline: April 15, 2018
Amount: $200,000 over two years
Number of Awards/Year: 5-7
Eligibility: The Angelman Syndrome Foundation is dedicated to funding the highest caliber of research on Angelman syndrome. It is our hope that these funded researchers, and their collaborators and peers, will bring forth new discoveries that ultimately lead to safe and effective therapies that improve the quality of life for all with Angelman syndrome. Researchers from all countries are encouraged to apply.

Highest priority will be given to pilot projects to test new ideas about pathogenesis and therapeutics of Angelman syndrome, translational research and clinical research studies. Of particular interest to the ASF are studies related to communication, behavioral issues and identification of issues and treatments that impact the daily life of people with Angelman syndrome and their families.

5. Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine
Research Grants
Deadline (LOI): April 1, 2018
Amount: $50,000 over 1 year
Number of Grants/year: 20
Eligibility: The Foundation will therefore welcome applications within the following areas of interest:

- Better reporting of data, as basis for improved care: Utstein Formula for Survival
- Promising hypothesis relating to updating of ILCOR guidelines for Emergency Cardiac Care and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- International/multicenter collaborations for improved education
- Implementation of the Global Resuscitation Alliance
- Projects at or in collaboration with the SAFER simulation center in Stavanger

The Foundation will furthermore focus on projects and programs for saving lives of newborn and mothers during and immediately after delivery in low resource settings.

6. National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Pilot Research Grant
Deadline (LOI): April 9, 2018
Amount: $40,000
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: Investigators at established research institutions may apply to this program. It is expected that the person indicated as the principal investigator in an application for a grant is the one who is personally and actively responsible for the conduct of the research and who is considered eligible by his or her institution to apply for a research grant. The principal investigator need not be a United States citizen. Applicants are not eligible to apply if they have an existing National MS Society pilot research award that expires later than the application deadline. Applications for Pilot Research Projects under the direction of, or that request stipends for, postdoctoral fellows or for graduate students will not be accepted. Pilot awards must not be used to support dissertation work for a graduate student. Postdoctoral fellows are encouraged to apply for one of the Society’s research training programs.

The purpose of the Pilot Research Grant is to fund high-risk pilots designed to quickly test novel ideas with the potential to advance efforts to stop MS progression, restore function, and improve quality of life for individuals with MS and their families. The program supports fundamental as well as applied studies, non-clinical or clinical in nature, including projects in patient management, care, and rehabilitation. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society provides funds for limited short-term support of research in areas where preliminary data are scant or nonexistent.

7. The American Academy of Optometry (AAO)
Clinical Research Award
Deadline (LOI): April 13, 2018
Amount: $100,000 over two years
Number of Awards/Year: 1
Eligibility: Each research group must name an individual Academic Partner who has research experience and has published in refereed journals in the area of investigation. All listed investigators (PI and co-investigators) must be Academy Fellows in good
standing. Ideally, 60% of the investigator group will be in clinical practice outside of an academic institution. If this is not possible because of the particular study topic, an explanation must be included. The research project must address a relevant clinical question and have the potential to positively impact patient care in optometry. Investigator(s) must submit study results to the Academy’s Scientific Program Committee for presentation at the Annual Meeting and to Optometry and Vision Science or other peer-reviewed journals for publication.

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) is pleased to announce the development of a scientific research career development award for optometric faculty at schools or colleges of optometry and optometrists practicing in Departments of Ophthalmology. To answer clinically meaningful questions that will have a significant impact on patient care in optometry and to provide a mechanism for Academy Fellows to conduct clinical research.

8. The Breakthrough Prize

Fundamental Physics
Deadline: April 30, 2018
Amount:
- The Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics - $3,000,000
- New Horizons in Physics Prize - $100,000

Number of Awards/Year:
- The Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics - 1
- New Horizons in Physics Prize - Up to 3

Eligibility:
- It is open to all physicists - theoretical, mathematical and experimental - working on the deepest mysteries of the Universe
- The New Horizons in Physics Prize is targeting a junior researcher who has already produced important work in their fields
- Recipients of the New Horizons Prize will generally be no more than 12 years past their PhD. Exceptions will sometimes be made, especially in cases of experimental projects with long lead times
- A person can receive a prize more than once
- Self-nomination is not allowed

The Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics is given annually for accomplishments in fundamental physics broadly defined, including advances in closely related fields with deep connections to physics. The New Horizons Prize is designated for junior researchers recognizes those individuals who have made profound contributions to human knowledge.

Mathematics
Deadline: April 30, 2018
Amount:
- The Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics - $3,000,000
- New Horizons in Mathematics Prize - $100,000

Number of Grants/Year:
- The Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics - 1
- New Horizons in Physics Prize - Up to 3

Eligibility:
- The Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics recognizes a single person’s contribution to the field of mathematics, with special attention to recent developments (Contribution to the field of mathematics in the last 10 years, although earlier contributions may also be taken into account)
- The New Horizons in Mathematics Prize is awarded to promising junior researchers who have already produced important work
- Candidates for the New Horizons Prize should have not held a PhD for more than 10 years at the start of the calendar year in which nominations close. This requirement may be relaxed in exceptional circumstances
- There are no age restrictions
A person can receive a prize more than once

Life Sciences
Deadline: April 30, 2018
Amount: $3,000,000
Number of Grants/Year: 5

- All prizes are individual and should recognize a single person's contribution to the field of life sciences, with special attention to recent developments
- There are no age restrictions
  - A person can receive a prize more than once

Each year, up to five Breakthrough Prizes in Life Sciences are awarded. One prize per year is for work contributing to the understanding of Parkinson's Disease & Neurodegenerative Disorders. All prizes are individual and should recognize a single person's contribution to the field of life sciences, with special attention to recent developments.

9. The Franklin Institute Awards
Bower Award
Deadline: May 31, 2018
Amount: 250,000
Number of Grants/Year: 1

Eligibility: This is an international competition for individuals who have made significant contributions to green and sustainable chemistry. This award and prize must be presented to an individual, as specified by the will of Henry Bower. Candidates must be living, and the winner must participate in The Franklin Institute Awards Week programs, to be held in spring 2019 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Nominations from any individual or organization will be accepted, including self-nominations.

The Franklin Institute seeks nominations for the 2019 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science of individuals who have made significant contributions to green and sustainable chemistry-chemistry focused on the technological design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Objectives of green and sustainable chemistry include: minimizing the use of chemical raw materials, reducing waste, lowering the toxicity of utilized chemicals, and improving lifecycle through the use of more sustainable or renewable raw materials to produce fuels or chemicals, thereby minimizing the environmental impact of chemical processes.

Nominations are encouraged in, but not limited to, the following subtopics:

- New chemical processes with reduced hazardous byproducts
- Applications of supercritical fluids in chemical processes as environmentally benign solvents for chemical reactions, extractions, and chemical analyses
- Utilization of ionic liquids as environmentally friendly alternatives to volatile and flammable solvents in chemical processes
- Use of catalysts that make chemical processes more selective, less energy intensive, or more economical in their use of feedstock

10. The Marfan Foundation
Faculty Grant Program
Deadline: April 20, 2018
Amount: $100,000 over two years
Number of Awards/Year: 2

Eligibility: The principal investigator must hold an MD, DO, PhD, ScD, DDS, DVM, or equivalent degree. The investigator must have proven ability to pursue independent research as evidenced by original research publications in peer-reviewed journals and hold a position of Associate Professor or above. Work can be performed in the U.S. or internationally.

The Marfan Foundation is currently accepting proposals for basic, translational and clinical research related to Marfan syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), Loeys-Dietz Syndrome (LDS), and other related disorders. Each application should have the quality of an NIH proposal. Special areas of interest are basic research, translational studies and clinical studies in cardiovascular, orthopedic, pulmonary, ophthalmologic, pain and other pertinent areas utilizing synergistic collaborations; integration of novel
theories from non-traditional researchers into established paradigms; novel animal model systems; innovation; and the distillation of knowledge into practical new therapies. Special consideration is given to proposals in non-cardiac disciplines and clinical research areas.

11. Thrasher Research Fund
E.W. "Al" Thrasher Award
Deadline: Rolling
Amount: $300,000 over three years
Number of Grants/Year: 20-25
Eligibility: Principal Investigators must be qualified in terms of education and experience to conduct research. A doctoral-level degree is required. There are no citizenship or residency requirements. The Fund is open to applications from institutions both inside and outside the United States.

Ideal applications for the E.W. "Al" Thrasher Award address significant health problems that affect children in large numbers and offer the potential for practical solutions to these problems. Such solutions should be innovative and have the potential for broad applicability with low financial and/or technical barriers to implementation. Hypothesis-driven research is preferred over exploratory, hypothesis-generating research. Projects with a shorter distance to clinical applicability are given priority.

12. Whitewall Foundation
Research Grants
Deadline (LOI): April 15, 2018
Amount: Up to $225,000 over three years
Number of Awards/Year: 60
Eligibility: Research grants are available to established scientists of all ages working at accredited institutions in the United States. Applications will be judged on the scientific merit and the innovative aspects of the proposal as well as on the competence of the applicant. A renewal grant with a maximum of two years is possible, but it will be awarded on a competitive basis. Research grants will not be awarded to investigators who have already received, or expect to receive, substantial support from other sources, even if it is for an unrelated purpose.

The applicant must meet all three of the following eligibility requirements in order to participate in the application process:

- Appropriate title - must be an Assistant Professor (or higher). If the institution does not use this title, a letter from the department chair confirming the applicant’s eligibility is required
- Status - must hold Principal Investigator status
- Independent - must be considered an "independent investigator" with his/her own dedicated lab space or with lab space independent of another investigator

The Whitewall Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation which is focused exclusively on assisting basic research in vertebrate (excluding clinical) and invertebrate neurobiology in the United States. Investigations should specifically concern neural mechanisms involved in sensory, motor, and other complex functions of the whole organism as these relate to behavior. The overall goal should be to better understand behavioral output or brain mechanisms of behavior.

Grants-in-Aid
Deadline (LOI): April 15, 2018
Amount: Up to $30,000
Number of Grants/Year: 1
Eligibility: Investigations should specifically concern neural mechanisms involved in sensory, motor, and other complex functions of the whole organism as these relate to behavior. The overall goal should be to better understand behavioral output or brain mechanisms of behavior. The Grants-in-Aid program is designed for researchers at the assistant professor level who experience difficulty in competing for research funds because they have not yet become firmly established. Grants-in-Aid can also be made to senior scientists. All applications will be judged on the scientific merit and innovative aspects of the proposal, as well as on past performance and evidence of the applicant's continued productivity.

The applicant must meet all three of the following eligibility requirements in order to participate in the application process:
- Appropriate title - must be an Assistant Professor (or higher). If the institution does not use this title, a letter from the department chair confirming the applicant’s eligibility is required
- Status - must hold Principal Investigator status
- Independent - must be considered an “independent investigator” with his/her own dedicated lab space or with lab space independent of another investigator

The Whitehall Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation which is focused exclusively on assisting basic research in vertebrate (excluding clinical) and invertebrate neurobiology in the United States.

II. Nursing & Public Health

13. Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation
Faculty/Post-Doctoral Research Grant Program
Deadline: November 1, 2018
Amount: $20,000
Number of Awards/Year: 1-5
Eligibility: Faculty members of accredited colleges or universities or individuals affiliated with accredited non-profit human service organizations in the United States or Canada are eligible to apply. The applicant organization must agree to accept administrative responsibility for the project and submit required financial forms and reports to the Fund. The principal investigator (PI) must have an earned doctorate in a relevant discipline and relevant experience. The PI must be in full control of the research and be the principal author of the final report.

Areas of interest to the Fund are: studies to develop, refine, evaluate, or disseminate innovative interventions designed to prevent or ameliorate major social, psychological, behavioral or public health problems affecting children, adults, couples, families, communities, or studies that have the potential for adding significantly to knowledge about such problems. The research for which funding is requested must focus on the United States and/or Canada or on a comparison between the United States and/or Canada and one or more other countries.

14. The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation
Special Initiatives
Deadline: April 15, 2018
Amount: Up to $50,000
Number of Grants/Year: 3
Eligibility: In reviewing proposals for Special Initiatives grants, the Foundation will only consider those organizations that primarily serve low-income and vulnerable people, particularly individuals receiving MassHealth or other subsidized health insurance. The Foundation does not fund for-profit companies, religious organizations, nor individuals. A program’s potential for scaling or replication will be taken into consideration. The proposal should describe a framework or process for determining measures of success. The request should describe other potential funding sources, committed grants, and pending requests.

These grants support innovative pilots and demonstration projects in Massachusetts that expand access to health care for low-income consumers, align with our strategic focus areas, and complement the objectives of the Foundation’s other funding, including synergies between grant making and policy initiatives. The Foundation’s priorities are to protect the availability of coverage and care for the most vulnerable and low-income people in the state, and to support linkages between social services in housing and food security and health care that help to improve outcomes for residents.

15. The Retirement Research Foundation (RRF)
Responsive Advocacy Grant
Deadline: May 1, 2018
Amount: Up to $137,500
Number of Grants/Year: 10
Eligibility:
Responsive Advocacy Grants are provided to nonprofit organizations that are:
- Tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; OR non-
The Retirement Research Foundation funds advocacy projects that have a regional or national impact for older Americans. Of particular interest are projects that advance policy issues of critical importance to our nation’s seniors such as economic security, health care, housing, etc., use clearly focused and strategic efforts to address systemic problems and forge partnerships with organizations to achieve better use of resources and to share knowledge.

**Professional Education and Training Grant**

**Deadline:** May 1, 2018  
**Amount:** Up to $175,000  
**Number of Grants/Year:** 6  
**Eligibility:**  
Professional Education and Training Grants are provided to nonprofit organizations that are:

- Tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; OR nonprofit organizations that are not required to have a 501(c)(3) designation, such as state-funded universities  
- Proposing a project that may have a significant focus on older adults, ages 65 and above

The Retirement Research Foundation funds professional education and training projects that have a national impact for older Americans. RRF recognizes the importance of a well-trained workforce to serve older persons both in the community and in residential settings.

Of particular interest are programs that:

- Increase the knowledge and skills of professionals and paraprofessionals who serve older adults, ages 65 and older  
- Expand the capacity and number of professionals and paraprofessionals prepared to meet the growing demands of an aging population

**Research Grant**

**Deadline:** May 1, 2018  
**Amount:** Up to $170,000  
**Number of Grants/Year:** 11  
**Eligibility:**  
Research Grants are provided to organizations that are:

- Tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; OR nonprofit organizations that are not required to have a 501(c)(3) designation, such as state-funded universities  
- Nonprofit organizations, including but not limited to institutions of higher education

The Retirement Research Foundation funds research projects that have a regional or national impact on older Americans. Of particular interest are projects that:

- Seek causes and solutions to significant problems facing older adults, ages 65 and older, through support of applied and policy research for which federal funding is not available

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**III. EDUCATION, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

16. **Harpo Foundation**  
**Grants for Visual Arts**  
**Deadline:** April 20, 2018
Amount: Up to $10,000
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: To apply, a $15 application fee is required. Fees are applied to grant administration and program development.
Applicants must use the foundation’s online application system to submit the following:
- Artist resume
- Artist statement (200 words)
- Work samples (up to 10)

The Harpo Foundation was established in 2006 to support artists who are under recognized. The foundation also seeks to stimulate creative inquiry and to encourage new modes of thinking about art. Applications are evaluated based on the quality of the artist's work, the potential to expand aesthetic inquiry, and its relationship to the foundation’s priority to provide support to visual artists who are under recognized by the field.

17. International Womens Media Foundation
Women Journalist Fund
Deadline: August 7, 2018
Amount: Up to $30,000
Number of Grants/Year: N/A
Eligibility: An applicant must identify as a woman and be a full time professional practicing journalist with more than 3 years of post-graduate journalism experience. If applicable, teams of journalists may apply, but the team leader must be a woman journalist and the group must include at least 50 percent women.

The fund was designed to help women journalists from around the world by providing grantees support to:
- Expose under-reported but critical global issues
- Undertake ambitious projects that challenge traditional media narratives
- Develop field-based expertise and strengthen careers
- Pursue critical skills training and leadership opportunities
- Launch entrepreneurial news projects or acquire the skill to do so

18. Online News Association
Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education
Deadline: May 4, 2018
Amount: Up to $35,000
Number of Grants/Year: Up to 10
Eligibility: The Challenge Fund is open to U.S.-based colleges or universities working in teams made up of educators, students, researchers, media professionals, technologists and designers to provide local news coverage and investigate issues of interest to their community. Endorsements for the programs from the Dean or Program Director are encouraged but not required. The ability to obtain matching funds is considered in project selection but not required. Examples of a project team includes: Educators (Team Lead), students, local media partners such as local television, radio, newspaper, and online outlets, researchers, technologists and designers, and/or local community residents.

This challenge is about experimentation. The Online News Association wants to fund experimental projects that encourage collaborative local news coverage and investigations, bridge the academic and professional communities, improve training for students and generate meaningful lessons for digital news.

Projects should inform and engage your local community. In 2018, the experiments will focus on four core areas:
- Diversity: Experiments will focus on underreported or underrepresented communities. Experiments in diversity might involve unique coverage of these communities or the internal structure of the project teams
- Technology: Experiments will build innovative tools to advance digital storytelling or to engage audiences in a creative through technology
- Community Engagement and Civic Participation: Experiments will focus on stories or ideas that identify issues of public concern or involve the community in the storytelling and news gathering process. Experiments can focus on outside-the-box ways to engage audiences as part of the story
Building Trust: Experiments will focus on processes or ideas that build trust between communities and news organizations. Experiments can focus on projects that improve the flow of accurate information.

19. The Drucker Prize
Deadline: April 30, 2018
Amount: $100,000
Number of Grants/Year: 1
Eligibility: The only requirement is that the organization must be an IRS-certified 501(c)(3). A copy of the 501(c)(3) determination letter is required along with the application.

The Drucker Prize (formerly known as the Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation) continues to recognize the organization that best exemplifies Peter Drucker’s definition of innovation: "change that creates a new dimension of performance." The Drucker Prize’s resource-rich learning platform blends the timeless wisdom of Peter Drucker with the thinking of some of today’s brightest management minds.

IV. Fellows

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

20. Aaron Siskind Foundation
Individual Photographer’s Fellowship Grant
Deadline: May 18, 2018
Amount: Up to $10,000
Number of Grants/Year: 5-8
Eligibility: U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents of the United States, who reside in the U.S., and who are at least 21 years of age. Recipients must provide legal proof of eligibility and a verifiable social security number. Eligible work include still photography regardless of subject matter, genre, or process. The use of the lens must be pivotal. The submission should consist of a mature, coherent body of work. The Aaron Siskind Foundation is offering a limited number of Individual Photographer’s Fellowship grants based on artistic excellence, accomplishment to date, and the promise of future achievement in the medium in its widest sense.

The Foundation seeks to support artists/photographers who demonstrate a serious commitment to the field, who are professionally active or employed in the field.

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."