

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN
ADVANCING A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN (AHW)
2007 CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Objective

Funding from proceeds under the *Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Program* is intended to furnish support for research projects that provide medical advances to the citizens of Wisconsin (<http://www.mcw.edu/healthierwisconsin>). The objective of this funding opportunity is to provide funds to leverage the expertise and assets at the Medical College of Wisconsin to promote discoveries that will translate into improvements in health status, longevity, and quality of life. This Request for Applications (RFA) is intended to conform to the goals of the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Plan*.

Key Dates

RFA Release Date: May 1, 2007

Application submitted to Grants & Contracts: August 10, 2007

RFA Application Receipt Date: August 17, 2007

MCW Research Affairs Committee Review Dates: November 2007

MCW Research and Education Advisory Council Review Dates: December 2007

Consortium Review: December 20, 2007

Board of Trustees Review: January 18, 2008

Anticipated Start Date: February 1, 2008

Changes for 2007

- Due dates
- Translational Research Focus

Award Overview

Areas of focus in MCW's *Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Five-Year Plan for Research for a Healthier Tomorrow* encompass the broad areas of cardiovascular disease, cancer, the neurosciences, genetics and population health.

All forms of medical research will be considered, from the basic cellular or organism levels to clinical, translational, and population-based studies as included in the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Plan*.

Approximately one-half of funded grants will be translational projects, the other half will derive from submissions in all other categories. Funds for the initiative of *Research for a Healthier Tomorrow* can also be used to support imaging, biotechnology, and bioinformatics projects that emphasize and support biomedical research.

The program is designed to support studies by new or established investigators either taking new and distinct directions on current or previous research, with an emphasis placed on *new* interdisciplinary initiatives.

Research projects in any areas that create synergy through collaboration and interdepartmental effort, and/or which ultimately may lead to broader research support by means of Program Project Grants (PPG) or Specialized Clinical Centers of Research (SCCOR) funded by extramural grant programs, are especially valued for funding through this initiative.

The distribution from the endowment funds used to support research initiatives is expected to be approximately \$1.5 million during this funding cycle for years 2007-2008

The size of the individual awards may vary, and may total up to \$150,000 for projects that may last up to 3 years.

Issuance of a request for research applications is anticipated yearly.

Eligibility

The projects must be relevant to fulfilling the mission of the *Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Five-Year Plan* (<http://www.mcw.edu/display/router.asp?docid=2729>) and support the spirit of the Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Plan (<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/shp-pdf/PPH0276-PHIP.pdf>).

The translation of biomedical research findings from the laboratory to the bedside is critical to improving the health of the residents of the State into the future. Projects considered to be Translational must fit the NIH definition of “translational research” and will be given funding priority. This includes two areas of translation:

1. The process of applying discoveries generated during research in the laboratory, and in preclinical studies, to the development of trials and studies in humans, or vice-versa.
2. Research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community.

Other Eligibility Criteria

- Principal investigators must have the rank of faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin to be eligible.
- Junior investigator applicants with limited funding will be given special consideration by the Executive Review Committee.
- Only one grant application per principal investigator will be accepted in response to this request for proposals.
- Revised/amended applications may be submitted only once for review and must include a response to the first review according to the instructions.
- Principal investigators are eligible to receive awards for successive, but not concurrent or overlapping, projects under this AHW funding initiative. No principal investigator may have more than one AHW grant in a three-year period.
- It is not the intent of Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin funds to be used as bridge funding.
- Applications that mainly propose procurement of equipment and instrumentation are ineligible.
- Faculty salary support is allowable with a 15 percent ceiling and a minimum of 5 percent.

- A minimum of 5 percent FTE is required for all key personnel contributing to the project.
- All “to be assigned” or “to be hired” categories must be identified prior to the project start date.

Application Process

Applications for support from the Medical College of Wisconsin under this funding opportunity must contain a clear description of the research objectives and goals, and an explanation of how outcomes of the proposed research relate to the *Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Five-Year Plan*.

Applications must be submitted to Grants & Contracts for administrative approval by means of the Registration Form no later than August 17, 2007. Applications must have cleared the Office of Grants & Contracts and be delivered to the Office of Research by the close of business on the due date. The applications must be formatted according to instructions provided with this funding opportunity.

An electronic copy of the grant submission and attachments must accompany the application as a single PDF file via CD ROM or via e-mail attachment to Lynne Prost, in the Office of the Sr. Associate Dean for Research (456-8508; lprost@mcw.edu).

Supplanting

Decisions on supplanting will be made on a case-by-case basis in keeping with the guidelines of the Five-Year Plan. The following criteria will be considered to determine whether financial support by the Funds for a proposed project or proposed use would supplant other available financial resources.

- Closely related projects or uses and financial resources for related projects or uses
- Sources of financial resources for the project or use
- Availability of federal funding
- Availability of state funding
- Availability of College corporate funding
- Availability of community funding
- Other factors applicable to the specific proposed project or use

Review process

Applications will be reviewed by the Research Affairs Committee and ad hoc reviewers serving at the behest of the Committee. Review criteria will include: 1) scientific merit, 2) relevance and appropriateness to the *Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Program*, 3) potential for leveraging the application into traditional extramural grant support, and 4) non-supplanting of other available resources. The scientific merit of the proposal is the primary review criterion applied by the Research Affairs Committee, with the latter criteria assuming increasing importance at the secondary review by the MCW Research and Education Advisory Committee. The Research Affairs Committee will score applications by using a priority scale based on that of the National Institutes of Health. Applications will be rank ordered by RAC merit scores into two separately considered groups: 1) translational track, and 2) all others. Each group of applications will be considered by the Executive Review Committee. Approximately 5 from each group will be funded.

Other Resources and Links:

Sarah Di Padova, Program Coordinator
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin through Research and Education
sdipadova@mcw.edu; 414.456.4658

**APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN
ADVANCING A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN**

**Funding Opportunities in Basic, Clinical/Translational, and Population Health
Research**

INSTRUCTIONS AND CONTENT

1. Face page (Use the standardized form)

2. Budget pages

Budgets will not exceed a total of \$150,000 for a 1-3 year award. Applicants must complete the attached budget forms, including justification for personnel salary support, and equipment, supply, and travel expenditures. Faculty salaries are permitted up to 15 percent effort under the NIH salary cap (\$186,600/year). A minimum of 5 percent FTE is required for all key personnel contributing to the project.

Two forms are to be completed: 1) Budget Justification Page in MS Word format and 2) Budget for Entire Project in MS Excel format.

3. Abstract of the proposed research project (not to exceed 500 words)

Concisely summarize all relevant matters of the proposed research, making *specific* reference to the significance of the proposed research, relevance to targeted areas and the health-related benefits for the people of Wisconsin. The applicant must address how the proposal supports *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010: A Partnership Plan to Improve the Health of the Public*. The summary should include the rationale for the research, the overall objectives of the project, the long-term goals of the principal investigator, the central hypothesis or needs-based statement, the specific aims of the project, and a brief account of the research design and analytical approach.

4. Biographical sketches of Principal Investigators, Co-PIs, and key personnel (limit 4 pages per individual)

Applicants should follow the standard biosketch format for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf>). Important inclusions are the individual's name, position title, the degrees(s) held and the awarding institution(s); professional positions held and professional experience; relevant honors; publications, and list of currently and previously funded research.

5. Research resources (limit to 2 typed pages)

Describe the scientific environment in which the research will be done. Include access and extent of availability to relevant existent equipment, subject populations, and collaborative arrangements.

6. Introduction to Revised Proposal (limit to 2 pages, which are not counted as part of the 12-page limit to the Research Plan)

Summarize the essential ways in which the revised application is different from the original application, and fully respond to issues and criticisms previously raised by reviewers.

7. Research Proposal (limit to 12 pages)

The general format should be based on the NIH Instructions for PHS 398 forms (please see <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>), and address the following:

1. What do you intend to do?
2. Why is the work important?
3. What has already been done?
4. How are you going to do the work?

Applicants should adopt the following specific format, based on NIH PHS 398:

Specific Aims (recommended <1 single-spaced page)

State your research objectives and summarize the project as a whole. Include the gap in knowledge that needs to be filled and how you intend to fulfill it.

Background

Describe the background leading to the present application.

Preliminary Data

Include relevant preliminary data that led to the specific aims of the proposal and that attest to the competency of the investigator(s) for conducting the proposed research.

If there is no preliminary data, describe why you are qualified to do the proposed research.

Research Design and Methods

Provide the reviewers with a rationale for the work and enough general methodology involved in your laboratory, clinical or population health research so that the specific experiments can be viewed in context of meeting the objectives. The familiarity or expertise of the laboratory with key methodologies should be stated.

Describe the research design and procedures used to accomplish the stated objectives of your proposal, including statistical analyses.

Address potential problems and alternative approaches.

Propose a timetable for completion of the project.

8. Relevance to Research for a Healthier Tomorrow (½ -1 page is suggested)

Explain how the expected outcomes of the proposed studies fit into the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Five-Year Plan (<http://www.mcw.edu/display/router.asp?docid=4334>).

If this is a collaborative project, specifically address how the project will advance long-term collaborative efforts and how the project is envisioned to lead to extramural collaborative funding such as through PPG or SCOR mechanisms.

9. References (no page limit)

10. Attachments (limited to those considered essential for evaluation of the research plan; please include preliminary information within the grant application, where possible).

Letters of support from co-investigators listed on the face page must be attached.
Up to 3 relevant publications can be included.

Please direct questions to Ann Rosenthal, M.D., RAC Chair, at 456-7024 or via email at ann.rosenthal@med.va.gov

CLOSED

RAC USE ONLY _____
APPLICATION NO. _____
DATE RECEIVED _____

FACE PAGE

**APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT:
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN
ADVANCING A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN**

1. **Project title:** _____

2. **Principal Investigator:** _____ **Department:** _____

MCW address: _____ **Telephone:** _____

E-mail: _____

3. **Co-investigator(s):** _____ **Affiliation:** _____

4. **Project information** **Check this box if your proposal is for Translational Research**

Project Start Date: _____

Project End Date: _____

**Please note that all competitive projects must begin no later than 6 months after award date and finish no later than 6 months after project end date. Requests for deviations in either start or end dates must be justified and approved by the Senior Associate Dean for Research.*

Total amount requested: _____

Signature of Principal Investigator

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION PAGE

**The Medical College of Wisconsin
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin
RESEARCH**

Project

Title: _____

Personnel

Personnel salary support must be justified. Faculty salary support is allowable with a 15 percent ceiling. The specific role in the project should be identified. If partial salary is requested, indicate the percentage and source of remaining support (e.g., departmental or grant funds). Any consultant's funding and roles should be specified and justified. Faculty salaries cannot exceed the capped NIH amount (\$186,600/year).

Equipment

(Itemize and justify. If there will be an unequal distribution of expenses between years of the award period, identify and justify.)

Supplies

(Itemize by categories. Include expenses such as user fees and animal costs and per diem. If there will be an unequal distribution of expenses between years of the award period, identify and justify.)

Travel Expenses

(Specify by travel destination and purpose.)

Total Award Requested: _____

Budget for Entire Project

Fill in the Excel spreadsheet that may be found by going to InfoScope Research Resources under **Research AHW Grant** for the budget spreadsheet.

CLOSED