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Request for Applications: Patient-Oriented Cardiovascular Academic Projects (PCAP)

Purpose: The development of patient-oriented academic program (research, education, and community engagement-focused) in cardiovascular diseases remains a significant area of opportunity for growth of MCW's cardiovascular research footprint. Vibrant patient-oriented research programs are critical to developing the synergy required to build lasting and impactful clinical-translational research programs, educating and expanding opportunities for our faculty and learner, and engaging our community in collaborations to improve cardiovascular health. This request for applications focuses on small patient-oriented projects in need of funds to further these endeavors.

Rationale: Engaging faculty and trainees in patient-oriented academic projects is critical to the future of MCW's mission to provide cutting edge cardiovascular care for citizens of Wisconsin. Currently, limited funds specifically directed toward the development of POR academic programs in cardiovascular diseases exist at MCW. Dedicated funds toward this effort will pay longer term dividends by leading to a greater academic output and faculty engagement across the cardiovascular research spectrum.

Funding Source: These awards are made possible through the generous donations attendees and business sponsors of the 2018 and 2019 *Heart of the Matter* events.

Grant Mechanism and Durations:

Patient-Oriented Academic Project Awards (PACP): \$5000-\$10,000 for one year (3-5 available): Examples of appropriate uses of funds for trainee awards: Research supplies, salary support for biostatistician, clinical research assistant, research nurse, or technician time, database access fees, core facility fees, support for conferences focused on cardiovascular diseases sponsored by MCW faculty, community-based cardiovascular focused projects.

Eligibility:

- (1) Research projects must meet the NIH's definition of Patient-Oriented Research, as currently defined as "Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin, such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that use human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. This definition includes (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, or (d) development of new technologies." This definition includes epidemiologic and behavioral studies as well as

outcomes and health services research. To be clear, for the purposes of this RFA, patient-oriented research using human tissues must meaningfully leverage the clinical information related to these tissues in order to qualify as patient-oriented research.

- (2) The applicant must be either an MCW Faculty member meeting the MCW definition of a Principal Investigator or a current trainee in a MCW fellowship or residency program, or post-doctoral student, at MCW. If the applicant is a trainee, the applicant must identify their MCW faculty sponsor.
- (3) Funding cannot be used as bridge funding for lapsed grants
- (4) Funding cannot supplant available funds
- (5) No salary on the grant is allowed (1% for sponsor to listed to be cost-shared)
- (6) No indirect costs

Non-Allowable Expenses on All Awards: travel expenses, computer hardware (unless well justified), memberships and subscriptions, office supplies, liability insurance

Number of Awards: See Above. Additional awards may be available based on fund availability

Application Process:

FOR THE TRAINEE AWARDS

- 1) **Study Title** (not included in page limit)
- 2) **Name of Sponsor (MCW Full Time Faculty Member)**
- 3) **Indicate type of project (research, educational, community engagement)**
- 4) **Overview of the project (two page maximum, 0.5" borders, Arial 12 Font) that describes**
 - a. **Rationale:**
 - i. **Research Project:** Delineate a hypothesis and specific aim(s).
 - ii. **Educational/Community Project:** Delineate the unmet need the project will address.
 - b. **Significance**
 - i. **Research Project:** Discuss how the results impact our understanding of cardiovascular diseases.
 - ii. **Educational/Community Project:** Discuss how the project will impact learners and/or the community.
 - c. **Innovation**
 - i. **Research Projects:** Highlight any innovative methodologies employed or how the application challenges or may shift current mechanistic or clinical care-based paradigms.
 - ii. **Education/Community Project:** Highlight any novel methodologies and techniques employed.
 - d. **Approach:**
 - i. **Research Projects:** Discuss how the research hypothesis will be tested.

- ii. **Education/Community Projects:** Discuss how the educational or community-based project will be structured, including a discussion of content and target participants.
 - e. **Dissemination (all):** Discuss how the results of the project will be disseminated. For research projects, this would include how the investigation will be used to support a publication or a grant application. For educational and community-based projects, how will the results be presented to stakeholders.
- 5) **References** (if applicable, not included in the page limit)
- 6) **A budget with explanation of how the money would be spent to further the project** (not included in page limit).
- 7) **Attestation that the funds do not supplant current funding for the project available to the faculty sponsor, trainee, or to the trainee through their home laboratory or sponsor** (not included in page limit)

Review Process: Each application will be graded its merits as far as significance, innovation, approach, and overall potential impact. The number of meritorious awards given out each year depends on the available dollars and the financial requests of the applicants. At a minimum, one award per year will be granted. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by at least two independent reviewers. Scores for significance, innovation, approach, and overall impact will be based on the NIH's nine-point scale, with a score of one for an exceptionally strong application with no or negligible weaknesses with high scores indicating less strong applications.

Review criteria for research applications will follow the criteria for assessing the significance, innovation, approach, investigator, and overall impact as stipulated in NIH review criteria as seen in the following URL: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-20-183.html#_Section_V_Application. For research projects, the likelihood of the work resulting in a first-authored manuscript and/or presentation at a national meeting will be considered an additional criterion in the review process.

Post Awards Requirements:

- (1) Official awarding of funds cannot occur until appropriate Institutional Research Boards (if necessary) and (if necessary) IACUC approvals have been received by the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. If necessary, if approvals are not received by 2 months following the approved start date, the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine may decide to not fund the project.
- (2) Awardees will be required to report their findings in a one-page end of the year report. Awardees are also expected to recognize the organizations (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine) that helped to fund their research in all abstracts and publications resulting from their work.

Timeline for the Mechanism:

Milestones	Date
RFA Released	August 5, 2021
Full Proposals Due: Submit Completed Application to Amberly Anger (aanger@mcw.edu)	Accepted on a rolling Basis
Notice of Awards Sent to PI's	Sent on a rolling basis
Project Start Date	Date of notice of award
Deadline to Obtain IRB, IACUC, and IBC Approvals	60 days following notice of award
Project End Date	Within 12 months of notice of award
Final Progress Reports Due	Within 15 months of notice of award
All Invoices Paid for Expenses Occurring During Award Period	Within 18 months of notice of award