

## **GRID: Grants for Research Impact at Drexel**

### A Distribution of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Formula Tobacco Funds

#### **Purpose and Overall Plan:**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has provided funds from the Tobacco Settlement for research support for FY 2007. The Commonwealth determines the distribution of funds to all institutions based on their awards received from NIH. This year, the total allocation to Drexel University is \$1,048,705 (total costs). In compliance with new directives from the Commonwealth, these funds will be allocated between the College of Medicine and all the other academic units of the university on basis of their relative awards from the National Institutes of Health. The combined amount available for all academic units at Drexel other than the COM is \$209,741 (20% of total funds received). As the result of this change in distribution of funds, the faculty eligibility requirements for GRID awards has changed as outlined below.

Full-time, tenure track faculty in the College of Engineering, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions, College of Information Sciences and Technology, LeBow College of Business, School of Biomedical Engineering, School of Public Health, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, School of Education, College of Law and Goodwin College of Professional Studies may apply as P.I. for grant support from Formula Tobacco Funds under one or more of the programs listed below. Faculty and research faculty from ALL Colleges/Schools without exception may serve as co-investigators. *The goal of these awards is to provide the maximum impact upon research at Drexel, within the design and constraints of the state program.* This impact will generally be in the form of larger scale external funding in biomedical research in the near term. *GRID* awards may entail the funding of an established investigator or a new investigator; they may support an individual or a group. The awards are not meant as a reward for productivity, nor are they meant to augment start-up funding. Awards are given for a single year, and depending on the caliber of applications to the various categories, awards may not be made in every category in a given year. (In such a case, multiple awards would be given in one or more of the other categories.) Subsequent application for support is permitted, in the same or a different award category, but will be strongly influenced by the explicit statement of the applicant explaining the outcome of any and all previous funding from Formula Tobacco Funds.

**Proposals must be e-mailed to [research@drexel.edu](mailto:research@drexel.edu)**

**as pdf files (NO OTHER FORMAT ACCEPTED)**

**BY 3PM 10/20/06**

The subject line must contain "GRID Proposal" and the name of the PI

- (1) Only one faculty member can serve as Principal Investigator. Other investigators should be listed as co-investigators, unless they are students (e.g., graduate students, medical fellows).
- (2) To ensure that person-hours are not wasted by preparing and reviewing overly long or unsuitable documents, applications will be strictly limited to three single-spaced pages for the

description of the goals, background and work to be performed. Figures and equations are included in the limit; appendices are not permitted. References should be included within the body of the application by number, to conserve space (e.g., [12]). In lieu of appendices, digital photographs and other graphical material *already published by* the P.I. and other scientists on the project team can be identified within the body of the application by the reference and either the Unique Identifier/PMID number (e.g., [12]155765) or the DOI reference. This will facilitate access of the reviewers to the information. *However, reviewers are under no obligation to consider material other than that provided within the body of the document.* A reference list should be provided on a separate page or pages which are not included in the 3-page limit. NIH biosketches (Form PHS398) and a formal NIH (first-year detailed) budget page are also not included in the above 3-page limit.

(3) One detailed budget page is required.

(4) Each award application will ask the applicant to state explicitly on a separate application page (not part of the 3-page narrative) the anticipated outcome of the funding of the applicant's project. In general, a timeline is expected for the submission of an external grant based on the preliminary data and progress that directly result from GRID funds. Applicants are urged to be cautious and accurate because whether or not they meet this promise will be taken into account in future applications. ***For those who have previously received funds from the Commonwealth Tobacco Settlement, the applicant will be required to describe explicitly the outcome predicted in the previous project and to document the actual achievement.***

(5) The work involved must be in keeping with *one or more* of the goals of the Commonwealth in the distribution of these funds, which are summarized as follows:

Research priorities shall include the identification of critical research areas, disparities in health status among various Commonwealth populations, expected research outcomes and benefits and disease prevention and treatment methodologies.

The research priorities are clinical, health services, and/or biomedical research as defined in Act 2001-77. The ultimate goal of the research should be to improve health status and access [and] ... should encourage, through the application process and accountability requirements, research that:

- emphasizes collaboration
- promotes business and community involvement
- increases infrastructure and research capacity
- increases the number of new investigators, new grants, new discoveries and new products
- leverages new and existing research funds, and leads to population-based applications that address disparities in health status among various Commonwealth populations.

(6) Collaborations with faculty in ALL Colleges/Schools are welcome, and in some grants are a requirement. However, increasing the number of faculty involved in a proposal will not automatically strengthen it, and may even weaken it, for example, if the distribution of the funds would be so broad as to dilute the impact that is the overall target of this funding mechanism.

(7) The same project may be submitted as an application to more than one of the programs listed below, and at the discretion of the reviewing committee awards may be made to a project in a category not originally specified in the application (e.g. a Technology Grant proposal might be awarded as an Innovation Grant). If the proposal appears to fall under more than one category, multiple categories should simply be listed on the title page. Separate duplicate applications should *not* be submitted.

## Summary of required documents

(1) Face page: Investigator-generated page containing the title of the application, the specific program (see below), the full name of the P.I. and the P.I.'s department, the full contact information for the P.I., the name of the departmental administrator and contact information and the name of the chair. The P.I. must state whether the program requires the use of animals (IACUC approval not required for submission to the Commonwealth but is required for release of awards) or humans (IRB approval is required for submission to the Commonwealth and every effort will be made to expedite reviews). The P.I. must state whether the project involves bio-hazards or the use of radioactive isotopes.

(2) Biosketch of P.I. and other investigators who are key scientific personnel (including, but not restricted to co-investigators and all those with doctorates).

(3) Budget and budget justification.

(4) Project narrative: The three-page body of the grant application as described above.

(5) References

(6) Statement of projected submissions for extramural support of the project and of previous awards from the Commonwealth Tobacco Settlement. The latter to include a statement of the extent to which achievement under the previous award met the predictions of that proposal.

### **SUMMARY OF FORMAT:**

Face Page *including* name of PI, other investigators, and program or programs from which funds are sought (as described below.)

1-3 pages of proposal

References

1 page Budget

1 page statement of anticipated outcome in terms of future grants *and* statement of prior funding from formula funds and outcomes

Biosketch of all investigators

Supporting documents

## **The Awards:**

### **1. Synergy Grant.**

This award, with a budget of \$50-100K, is given to promote **NEW** collaborative research between or among faculty members of different departments in ALL the Colleges/Schools in the University. Applicants may not have present joint funding, and preference will be given to collaborations that did not previously exist, although it is possible that existing but non-funded collaborations may be given awards based on the strength of the proposal, preliminary results achieved by this collaboration and the applicant pool of a given year. The award is for one year, and designed to promote subsequent application to outside funding agencies. Applicants will be required to make a reasonable estimate in their application of when and to whom a proposal will be submitted, and it is expected that such a submission, at least comparable in scope to the synergy grant, will be no later than 1 year following the end of this Synergy grant. Evaluation will be based on the merits of the proposal, but will also include evaluation of the applicant's response to the question "Have you previously received Drexel funding, and if so, what was the outcome of the support?" Applications will have a single PI and must have at least one key collaborator; investigators may request up to 10% of their annual salary as summer salary. Overly large groups are discouraged because of the potential for the dollars to be spread too thin to achieve an impact.

### **2. Innovation Grant**

This award, with a budget of \$50-100K, is given to support potentially high-reward research for which initial outside support might be difficult to obtain due to high risk of methodology or hypothesis. The applicant(s) will be expected to directly address the risk/benefit issue in the application, and must also detail when and to whom a grant would be submitted if the initial work is successful. Evaluation will be based on the merits of the proposal, but will also include evaluation of the applicant's response to the question "Have you previously received Drexel funding, and if so, what was the outcome of the support?" Grant structure will have a single PI; investigators may request up to 10% of their annual salary as summer salary.

### **3. Technology Grant**

This award, with a budget of \$50-100K, is given to support the innovative use of technology in support of health-related research. The use of technology could be in clinical or bench-level research, and need not be high-risk, though it is expected to be innovative and not simply the importation to Drexel of technology already in standard use elsewhere. The award is for one year, and designed to promote subsequent application to outside funding agencies either in perfecting the technology or in its direct use for research. Applicants will be required to make a reasonable estimate in their application of when and to whom a proposal will be submitted, and it is expected that such a submission, at least comparable in scope to the synergy grant, will be no later than 1 year following the end of this Technology grant. Evaluation will be based on the merits of the proposal, but will also include evaluation of the applicant's response to the question "Have you previously received Drexel funding, and if so, what was the outcome of the support?" Grant structure will have a single PI; investigators may request up to 10% of their annual salary as summer salary.

#### **4. Human Impact Research Grant**

This award, with a budget of \$25-50K, is given to foster research efforts with a focus on behavioral, social, psychological, political, methodological, or clinical aspects that will complement or lead to larger research projects of broader scope. This award could support qualitative research, for example, or patient compliance or awareness studies. It could also identify a population or group with particular unmet needs. However, the long-term goal of the award is not simply continuation of the same type of research, but the coupling of it to a larger project, thereby adding breadth and depth. Applicants will be required to make a reasonable suggestion of other, future projects that might be coupled with the proposed work, and when such coupling might occur, and any investigators cited must agree to the reasonableness of this proposal. Evaluation will be based on the merits of the proposal, but will also include evaluation of the applicant's response to the question "Have you previously received Drexel funding, and if so, what was the outcome of the support?" Grant structure will have a single PI; investigators may request up to 10% of their annual salary as summer salary.