Introduction

The leadership of The Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine (COM) is dedicated to the success of independent faculty research programs. Based on the continued low federal grant pay lines, the COM has developed the **Dean's Bridge Funding Program** to provide short term bridge funding support to faculty with favorably reviewed, but unfunded federal research projects. The program will support bridge funding to obtain preliminary/pilot data and to maintain research teams pending resubmission of these projects. The goal of this program is to enhance the likelihood that PIs will be successful in securing extramural funding, specifically funding with full indirect costs.

Funding from the COM should be thought of as a “venture capital initiative,” invested for the purposes of growth and return on investment (ROI). Therefore, it is important for PIs to understand the implications of this underlying concept and provide sufficient rationale and evidence for the strong probability of success in future funding applications and state how such funding will benefit the COM via increased extramural grant portfolio, increased publication quality, and increased national reputation.

**Eligibility** (applicants must meet all criteria)

1. **COM Appointment and Protected Time.** Only full time faculty from tenure initiating units (primary home departments) within COM and a rank of at least Assistant Professor (any track) are eligible for funding. Nationwide Children's faculty are eligible only if they are Co-PIs with Wexner Medical Center faculty. Department Chairs and Center/Institute Directors are not eligible to apply. Applicants must have a recently submitted and scored external grant application that would return full indirect costs to the COM. Questions of eligibility should be addressed with the Vice Dean for Research’s office in the COM prior to submission. This office will facilitate a timely decision on this issue and will sign off on eligibility. All applicants must demonstrate sufficient protected research time to accomplish the project (documented by the departmental chair signature on cover page [and division director if applicable]). Previously funded faculty are permitted to apply once again after 3 years.

   Faculty with start-up funding packages at the time of award start are not eligible for Dean’s Bridge funding.

2. **Demonstration of Need.** The PI must have exhausted other forms of internal (e.g., start-up funding) and external funding (with the exception of fellow or student funding) for the specific project within six months of submission. Appropriate areas of need include: (a) obtaining preliminary/pilot data prior to resubmission of a previously scored grant and (b) funding for personnel and supplies to maintain research teams during the process of resubmission. This must be verified (signed off) by Chair/Director and appropriate Fiscal Officer.
3. **Productivity of Research Program.** The PI must have an active research program and demonstrate a recent (within 2 years) past history of program productivity. Examples include, but are not limited to, PI status on past NIH grants (support at the level of an R21 or R01 in last two years) and publications (number, impact, etc.).

4. **Competitive Federal Application.** The PI must have submitted a competitive federal application with full indirect costs (excludes equipment grant and career awards). Competitive applications are those with a score and a percentile. For competitive renewal applications, the PI must show that the NIH grant was submitted in the appropriate funding cycle.

**Deadlines**

There will be multiple application deadlines per year, with the first occurring on **April 28th**, the second on **August 31st**, and the third on **December 29th**. **All applications are due to the COM Office of Research (comor@osumc.edu) by 5:00 PM on the designated deadline day. If the deadline falls during a weekend, applications will be accepted the next business day by no later than 5:00 PM.**

**Review Process**

All applications will undergo scientific review by a designated institutional review panel comprised of clinical and basic science investigators at OSU who are currently funded and have grant review experience at a national level. These investigators will serve as primary and secondary reviewers for all proposals. All proposals will receive an NIH-format scientific priority score with an abbreviated written review that will be made available to the top five applicants within 30 days of submission. Standard conflict of interest criteria will be considered when assigning and reviewing proposals. Funding is targeted to begin approximately 30 days after application approval.

Applications will be prioritized by COM leadership based on the score and review of the Scientific Review Committee. The major criterion will be the realistic expectation of ROI to the COM in the form of future research funding. This, of course, will depend on the track record of the PI, the scientific merit of the proposal and the quality of the investigative team and environment. Matching funds by a department will be considered strong evidence of broad support but are not required.

**Funding**

Funding will be limited to one-time support* for the project identified in the bridge funding application. Awards are limited to $50,000 and intended to support current laboratory personnel, supplies and other required expenses (e.g., cores). Funds will not support travel except in specific situations where travel is required to enhance the competitiveness of the grant (e.g., invited presentation to the NIH for a P01). Faculty time is not an allowable expense. It is recognized that funding needs may depend on the investigator’s grant resubmission plans. In some cases, funding may be used to obtain preliminary and pilot data prior to resubmission. In other cases, funding may be used to maintain intact research teams during the resubmission process. Specific budget line items may be cut based on available funding and/or inadequate justification. Up to 20% of the NIH maximum salary may be included
in the budget; 10% is expected. **Funds not utilized by end of the twelve month award period will be returned to the College of Medicine.** Successful awarding of the project grant will also result in a return of unspent funds to the College.

Awardees will be asked to provide a picture and a 3-4 sentence lay summary prior to receipt of funding. All supported faculty will be tracked over the 12 months following support. It is strongly encouraged that the PI uses grant editing and review services provided by the COM for the Introduction and revised application. Success on the acquisition of extramural grants will be tracked and considered for future funding decisions for PIs.

*PIs are limited to one submission per proposal (NIH R01), however a PI may apply for funds through this mechanism for other research projects within his/her program (e.g., second R01).

**Instructions and application for the Strategic Bridge Grant:**
(1 inch margins, 11 Arial font) and append to the email as a single PDF file.

1. **Cover Letter** (1 page limit) Provide a summary of research program, funding/NIH application status, plans for resubmission, lab productivity, and specific use for bridge funding.
2. **Cover Page Form** (see page 4)
3. **Detailed Budget:** Use the form page provided on page 5.
4. **NIH Biosketch.** Include a four page biosketch for the PI and Co-Is. List the current, pending and recent past funding (2 yrs.) available to each applicant. Publications should include only those that are published (or in press) in the past five years.
5. **Research Plan** (limit 3 pages excluding references). Include a Specific Aims page, statements of significance and impact, brief research strategy providing an overall rationale for the experimental approaches proposed (avoiding highly specific details regarding scientific methods), and a clear statement of how bridge funding for additional experiments will help achieve a higher priority score on the next submission or maintain the research team pending resubmission.
6. **Scored NIH Proposal with Detailed Summary Statement.** Include full proposal and detailed statement.
7. **Copy of current FY funding guidelines for parent NIH Institute**
College of Medicine
Dean’s Strategic Bridge Funding Program

P.I. Name

Department ___________________________ Dept. ORG Number ___________________________

Fiscal Administrative Contact

% Effort on this project ___________________________ % Effort on NIH grant application ___________________________

Project Title and Planned Resubmission Date

Score and type of NIH proposal

Total Budget Requested $_______________________

The PI has/will have exhausted other forms of internal (e.g. start-up funding) and external funding (with the exception of fellow or student funding) for that specific project within six months of the submission or shortly thereafter.

The PI will have sufficient protected research time to accomplish the project.

For MULTIPLE COLLEGE appointees, the PI’s non-COM department chair has agreed to cost share the funding based on percent appointment.

Appropriate Department/Division/Institute Faculty Panel has pre-reviewed submission and agree to a pre-review of resubmission of NIH grant before submission.

I am in agreement with the above stated conditions of this COM proposal.

Signature __________________________________________________________________________ Date: ____________

Department Chair/Institute Director/non-COM TIU Chair*

Signature __________________________________________________________________________ Date: ____________

Division Director (if applicable)

Signature __________________________________________________________________________ Date: ____________

Department/Institute Administrator/Fiscal Officer

*When applicable, funds will split proportionately between COM and non-COM department chair based on MOU.

Signature, Principal Investigator: ______________________________________________________

Date: ____________
## COM Dean’s Bridge Funding Program

### Detailed Budget

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<th>Principal Investigator Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-Investigator Name:</td>
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<td>Title of Project:</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
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<td>End Date:</td>
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#### YEAR 1

### Personnel Costs

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>12 month Salary</th>
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**Personnel Total:**

**Supplies and Other (itemize)**

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**Equipment**

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**OSU Benefit Rates:** Faculty 29.6%; Postdoctoral Researcher & A&P Staff 35.2%