

# UAB HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

### 2024 1-R01 Investigators

#### **Purpose:**

The landscape for securing extramural funding is competitive. A pinnacle achievement is to become a multi-R01 funded investigator, and it is highly beneficial for an investigator to have seed funding for the next great idea to be competitive in this funding environment. **The UAB Heersink School of Medicine invites applications for seed funding to move a one-R01 funded investigator to a two-R01 investigator.**

#### **Duration:**

Up to two (2) years

#### **Range of Requested Funds:**

Up to \$50,000/year per application.

#### **Eligibility:**

The PI of the application must have a primary appointment in a Department within the HSOM, and a record of substantial accomplishment in the subject area. One of the criteria for eligibility is having a currently funded R01 or R35 that has at least two years remaining in its current funding cycle from the date of the award, excluding no-cost extensions. Only investigators with **one** R01 or R35 are eligible. **The overall theme of the research should be relevant to at least one of the four research focus areas of the HSOM Strategic Plan, specifically: 1) Disruptive Technology Empowering Precision Health (D-TECH); 2) Health Equity; 3) Inflammation, Infection, Immunity and Immuno-Therapy (I-4WARD) and 4) Brain Health and Disease Across the Lifespan.** Projects can be basic science, translational science, or clinical science. Priority will be given to those R01 or R01-equivalent proposals that have recently been reviewed and scored by the NIH but not funded and are intended to be resubmitted. A recognized R01-equivalent for this purpose includes projects on P and U grants.

**Please note:** Beginning in 2021, the Dean's Office and the O'Neal CCC will collaborate on funding cancer-related pilot grants. This will be done through the O'Neal Invests program which has two funding cycles per year – one in the spring and one in the fall. All cancer-relevant proposals should be submitted to O'Neal Invests on one of these dates. For questions regarding O'Neal Invests, please contact Dr. Susan Ruppert -[CCC-oneal-invests@uab.edu](mailto:CCC-oneal-invests@uab.edu)

#### **Funds Available:**

It is anticipated that up to **6** grants, based on scientific merit, will be awarded during the 2025 fiscal year. Funding for the award will be limited to a maximum of **\$50,000/yr.**, and a project period of up to two years, pending appropriate progress and achieving benchmarks. Because the scope and nature of the proposed research will vary from application to application, the size of the award may vary. Funds provided under this award can be utilized for support of critical pilot projects, support for non-faculty personnel, and other expenses that are crucial to developing a competitive proposal.

#### **Intent to Submit**

Intents to submit must be submitted online via <http://apps.medicine.uab.edu/funding/SecondR01Info.asp> Complete the requested form fields and upload the letter of intent as one .pdf, naming the file with the last name of the PI and "LOI" (i.e., AgarwalLOI.pdf). Upload your NIH-formatted biosketch, naming the file with the last name of the PI and "Biosketch" (i.e., AgarwalBiosketch.pdf). Letter of Intent should include the title and brief description of the proposed research project. If this project has been recently submitted to the NIH for review, please include information about when it was submitted along with the summary statement.

Link to announcement: <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/home/research/funding-opportunities>.

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#### **Review Procedures:**

- Letters of intent to submit will be reviewed by faculty of the HSOM. Evaluation will be based on the track record of the PI, the potential for funding, and how well the proposal fits the identified research focus area(s).
- The first round of review will identify a subset to invite to submit a full application.
- Full applications will require a biosketch, budget and budget justification and a three-page research proposal. Evaluation will be based on the track record of the investigator(s), the potential impact, the innovation of the proposed project, the lack of duplication with existing programs, the likelihood of funding as an R01, and how well the proposal fits the identified research focus area(s).
- Successful applicants will be expected to provide semi-annual, written progress.

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

##### **Letter of Intent:**

- Letter of Intent - limited to one page  
*(Summary Statements are excluded from page requirement and can be uploaded with the Letter of Intent)*
- Biosketch of the Principal Investigator

##### **Full Application:**

Proposals invited to submit a full application will receive notification and a link to submit via email.

*There are no specific form requirements*

- Biosketch of all investigators
- Budget
- Budget justification
- Three (3) page research proposal
  - Arial 11 font (except tables)
  - 1-inch margins

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Can faculty salary support be requested?  
*No, only support for non-faculty personnel can be requested.*
2. If a co-investigator or a component of the project is from another institution, can support be provided?  
*No, support for this RFA must stay at UAB and be used internally. There are complex issues with indirects at other institutions that make it untenable to provide support outside of UAB.*
3. If the investigators are proposing a project or experiments that require IRB, IACUC, FDA approval (IND approval) before the project can begin, can they use the JIT "option" and not start the regulatory paperwork unless the project is chosen for funding?  
*Yes.*
4. Can NIH budget forms and NIH biosketch be used for this application?  
*Yes.*
5. Are the proposals required to go through OSP?  
*No.*

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**DEADLINES:**

**September 10, 2024**      **5:00 PM**      **INTENT TO SUBMIT**  
**November 6, 2024**      **5:00 PM**      **FULL APPLICATION**

**Schedule:**

August 5, 2024	Announcement
September 10, 2024	Deadline for Letter of Intent to Submit
September 30, 2024	Administrative Review Completed
October 2, 2024	Requests for Full Applications
November 6, 2024	Deadline for Full Applications
December 9, 2024	Scientific Reviews Completed
December 18, 2024	Notice of Awards
January 1, 2025	Funding Start Date

**Questions regarding scientific issues should be addressed to:**

Etty (Tika) Benveniste, PhD  
 Senior Vice Dean, HSOM  
 Phone: 205.934.7667  
 Email: [tika@uab.edu](mailto:tika@uab.edu)

**Questions regarding application issues should be addressed to:**

Brian Atkins  
 Data Analyst, Office of Research, HSOM  
 Email: [somresearch@uab.edu](mailto:somresearch@uab.edu)

Shaila Handattu, PhD, MBA  
 Executive Director, Office of Research, HSOM  
 Phone: 205.934.9417  
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