

7TH PACE AWARD
SPONSORED BY UMASS MEMORIAL MEDICAL GROUP
AND UMASS CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

UMass Memorial Medical Group and the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) at UMass Chan Medical School are pleased to announce a funding call for the Prize for Academic Collaboration and Excellence (PACE). This award supports the engagement of Medical Group physicians in cutting-edge research, encourages interdepartmental collaboration, showcases the Medical Group's and Medical School's commitment to academic excellence and reinforces the Medical Group's identity as a group comprised of academic physicians.

The goal of award funding is to support innovative investigator-initiated research and is open to any area of investigation. It is assumed that successful projects will be able to attract future funding from extramural sources.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- Projects must support an interdepartmental team made up of two or more Medical Group collaborating departments. Collaboration with the Medical School's Basic Science departments is highly encouraged as appropriate to the scientific goals of the project.
- All faculty Primary Investigators (PIs) must be Medical Group members. Inclusion of Medical School faculty as multiple principal investigators (MPI) or co-investigators is encouraged as appropriate to the scientific goals of the project.
- One PI must be an assistant or associate professor.
- Preference will be given to:
 - Investigators without previous substantial outside funding.
 - Research that can readily be translated to improve clinical care or clinical outcomes.
 - Applicants will receive added consideration from the reviewers if they plan to use one or more of the research resources available through the [UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science](#) (UMCCTS) at UMass Chan Medical School.

III. FUNDING

- The PACE Award is funded with a \$400,000 grant from UMass Memorial Medical Group and UMass Chan Medical School.
- The number of awards granted will depend on the number of winners selected from the top five submissions.
- The maximum award will be \$200,000.
- Funds are to be used at the discretion of the PIs and typically cover trainee support, reagent costs, use of consultation/core services and small equipment.
- Up to 25% of the total prize earnings may be used for PIs' salary support over two years.
- Indirect costs are not allowed.

IV. OVERSIGHT

The PACE Award is overseen and administered by a committee made up of Medical Group physicians who are nominated by their department chairs and the Medical Group Management Team (MGMT), which is made up of department chairs, the president, the senior vice president/COO, and the CFO of the Medical Group, in collaboration with the UMCCTS. Funding decisions are based upon the scientific merits, potential impact of the proposals and alignment to True North. Members of the oversight committees are not eligible to submit a proposal.

V. CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

To be considered for funding, the evaluation criteria that are used to review proposals include:

- **Intellectual Merit** – Projects that include all efforts to enhance the impact of scholarly endeavors on benefiting the human condition, which for the purposes of this fund include enabling technologies
- **Alignment to True North**
- **Collaboration** – Projects that are transdisciplinary and include investigators from multiple departments, including basic science departments
- **Growth Opportunity** – Projects that demonstrate the opportunity to be leveraged to attract and secure outside funding from federal, state, industry, foundation, and other sources

VI. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Please email your application as a single document (PDF) to: Rebecca.Martella@umassmemorial.org on or before May 15, 2024, by 5 pm.

Applications should include the following:

- Cover page with the names of the collaborating PIs, contact information, the role of each person in the project, project title and a one-paragraph lay abstract (one page maximum)

- Project plan, which includes a description of the problem, significance, preliminary data, explanation of the work proposed and future plans (two pages maximum)
- References (no page limit)
- Budget (NIH PHS 398 form page 4) and budget justification (one to two pages maximum)
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
- NIH bio sketch of PIs (five pages maximum for each)
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

Proposals will be reviewed by the scientific review committee that will comprise of UMass Memorial Medical Group and UMass Chan scientists to determine which projects involve true collaboration between investigators and are significantly linked to the criteria listed above. Proposals will be subject to a standard NIH-type study-section assessment. The scientific review committee will identify a maximum of five top proposals that will then be presented to MGMT/UMass Chan for the final selection of winning projects.

VII. APPLICATION TIMELINE

Request for Letters of Intent Announced	March 2024
Proposals Due	May 2024
PACE Award Winners Selection	July 2024
PACE Award Winners Announcement	September 2024

VIII. QUESTIONS?

For budget questions, please contact:

Paula Gilmartin, Medical Group CFO and Director of Operations: 774-442-2103

To ensure proper billing, research involving human subjects, any labs, procedures, or hospital-based events should be reviewed with the Office of Clinical Research (clinicalresearch@umassmed.edu) prior to submission.

For scientific or other questions, please contact:

Max Rosen, MD, MPH: max.rosen@umassmemorial.org

Or

Diane McKee, MD: m.diane.mckee@umassmemorial.org

Thank you for your interest in this program — we look forward to your ideas!