

4TH PACE AWARD
PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC COLLABORATION AND EXCELLENCE
(PACE)

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The UMass Memorial Medical Group (UMMMG) is pleased to announce a funding call for the Prize for Academic Collaboration and Excellence (PACE) Award. This award supports the engagement of UMMMG physicians in cutting-edge research; encourages interdepartmental collaboration; showcases UMMMG's commitment to academic excellence and reinforces UMMMG'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 UMMMG collaborating departments.
- All faculty PIs must be UMMMG members
- One (1) 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.

III. FUNDING

- The PACE program is funded with a \$200,000 grant from UMass Memorial Medical Group.
- The number of awards granted will depend on the number of winners selected from the TOP 5 submissions.
- The maximum award will be \$100K.

- All grants will be distributed over a two-year funding period.
- 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 total over two years may be used for PIs' salary support.
- Indirect costs are not allowed.

IV. OVERSIGHT

The PACE Award is overseen and administered by a scientific review committee made up of UMMMMG physicians nominated by their department chairs and the Medical Group Management Team (MGMT) which is made up of department chairs, the president and the executive vice president/COO and CFO of the Medical Group. 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

The evaluation criteria that are used to review proposals include the following:

- **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, will be considered for funding
- **Alignment to True North**
- **Collaboration** – projects that include investigators from multiple departments will be considered for funding
- **Growth Opportunity** – projects that demonstrate the opportunity to be leveraged to attract and secure outside funding from federal, state, industry, foundation and other sources will be considered for funding
- **Use of UMCCTS Resources** - Applicants will receive added consideration from the reviewers if they plan to use one or more of the research resources available through the [UMCCTS](#)

VI. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Please email your application as a single document (PDF) to: Rebecca.Martella@umassmemorial.org on or before May 1, 2021 by 5:00pm

Applications should include the following:

- Cover page with the names of the collaborating PI(s), contact information, the role of each in the project, project title, and a one paragraph lay abstract (1-page maximum)
- Project plan which includes a description of the problem, significance, preliminary data, an explanation of the work proposed and future plans (2-pages maximum)
- References (no page limit)
- Budget (NIH PHS 398 form page 4) and budget justification (1-2 pages maximum)
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
- NIH bio sketch of Principal Investigators (5 pages maximum for each)
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

Proposals will be reviewed by the scientific review committee 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 (5) top proposals that will then be presented to MGMT for the final selection of winning projects.

VII. APPLICATION TIMELINE

Request for Letters of Intent Announced	January 2021
Proposals Due	May 2021
PACE Prize Winners Selection & Announcement	June 2021

VIII. QUESTIONS?

For budget questions, please contact:

Paula Gilmartin, UMMMMG CFO and Director of Operations at 774-442-2103

To ensure proper billing with 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

Shlomit Schaal MD, PhD shlomit.schaal@umassmemorial.org

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