



Michigan Medicine
Peking University Health Science Center

北京大学医学部 - 密西根大学医学院
临床与转化医学联合研究所



JOINT INSTITUTE for Translational and Clinical Research

Michigan Medicine – Peking University Health Science Center Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research

REACTIVATED CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2020

Purpose

The Michigan Medicine and Peking University Health Science Center (PKUHSC) Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research (JI) seeks to identify joint proposals that advance robust collaborations between the institutions that will lead to transformative science and future extramural funding. Proposals must be jointly put forth by Co-Principal Investigators who are full-time faculty at University of Michigan and PKUHSC.

Overview

The Michigan Medicine-PKUHSC Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research (<http://www.puuma.org/>) was officially launched in October 2010 with a combined commitment of \$14M for joint research projects on diseases that are important to the U.S. and China. In October 2015, the Memorandum of Understanding between Michigan Medicine and PKUHSC was renewed for another five years.

In the initial phase, research programs focused on pulmonary, cardiovascular, liver, renal diseases, cancer, and precision health. The JI's Executive Board has extended the opportunity to **all disciplines**, with proposals on diseases that have a larger impact on populations in China and the U.S. prioritized. The JI is positioned to leverage the unique strengths of each university and facilitate translational research that is difficult for either Michigan Medicine or PKUHSC to pursue alone.

Awards

Funding for all awards originates equally from Michigan Medicine and PKUHSC with the intent that the respective amounts will be spent within the originating country. There are three types of awards this year:

- **Discovery Awards:**
 - Funding level: Up to \$100,000/year (\$50,000/year from PKUHSC, \$50,000/year from Michigan Medicine) for two years, totaling up to \$200,000 per project.
 - Purpose: To promote collaborations that have yet to be fully established.
- **Pilot Awards:**
 - Funding Level: Up to \$300,000/year (\$150,000/year from PKUHSC, \$150,000/year from Michigan Medicine) for two years, totaling up to \$600,000 per project.
 - Purpose: To strengthen partnership between the investigators who have demonstrated track-record of collaboration between the two institutions. This award category also includes proposals that are considered as interventional clinical trials.
- **Innovation Bridge Awards:**
 - Funding Level: Up to \$100,000/year (\$50,000/year from PKUHSC, \$50,000/year from Michigan Medicine) for one year, totaling up to \$100,000 per project.

- Purpose: To support partnership between the investigators to further develop their innovative technologies and to accelerate translation of research into products. This award category will be evaluated by the success potential of technology commercialization.

Eligibility

- University of Michigan: Full-time faculty from Michigan Medicine or from health science schools/colleges (*note: for non-Michigan Medicine applicants, cost sharing is expected from their home school/college to obtain matching support from the U-M Office of the Vice President for Research; see Appendix II, tab “Mandatory Cost Sharing for non-MM”*).
- PKUHSC: Full-time faculty who do not currently hold an active grant.

Application Timelines

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|---|-------------------|-------------|
| • Announcement of RFP Re-activation | November 11, 2020 | (Wednesday) |
| • Deadline for Letters of Intent | December 2, 2020 | (Wednesday) |
| • Notification to Submit a Full Application | December 16, 2020 | (Wednesday) |
| • Deadline for Full Application | February 24, 2021 | (Wednesday) |
| • Notice of Award | May, 2021 | |

Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by Wednesday, December 2, 2020 to Amy Huang (yanhuang@umich.edu) and Qiudan Sun (sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn), cc Melissa Li (melilimi@umich.edu), Yu Xiao (xiaoyu@bjmu.edu.cn), Xiaojia Li (lixiaojia@bjmu.edu.cn), Yuan Cao (caoyuan9004@bjmu.edu.cn) and Yuan Liu (liuy8953@bjmu.edu.cn). LOI applicants will be notified whether to complete a full application on December 16, 2020.

The letter of intent must include:

- Project title
- Names of the Principal Investigators (PIs), their departments and contact information
- Desired award category (i.e., Discovery, Pilot, or Innovation Bridge)
- Five keywords
- Abstract (300 words or less) that describes in separate subheadings listing a brief background, specific aims, and expected outcomes
- NIH style biographical sketch of the PIs

Full Application

Invited LOI applicants should submit full application documents as a single PDF file, including a request for notice of receipt to: Amy Huang (yanhuang@umich.edu) and Qiudan Sun (sunqd@bjmu.edu.cn), cc Melissa Li (melilimi@umich.edu), Yu Xiao (xiaoyu@bjmu.edu.cn), Xiaojia Li (lixiaojia@bjmu.edu.cn), Yuan Cao (caoyuan9004@bjmu.edu.cn) and Yuan Liu (liuy8953@bjmu.edu.cn).

Priorities

The proposals should clearly indicate: 1) how the proposed study will lead to the desired impact, and 2) how the successful conduct of the seed project will enhance the prospect for securing third party funding. Preferences will be given to proposals 1) that are able to identify specific external research programs for future funding through the JI support; 2) that include cost-sharing derived from sources outside of the JI, demonstrating the interest of third parties in the field. The cost-sharing would be used to offset some of the funding that is coming from the U-M. The source, amount, and nature of such cost-sharing must be identified in writing, and confirmed with a letter of commitment as part of the application; and 3) that conduct COVID-19 research to address the ongoing pandemic for mechanisms, therapeutics, and prevention.

Required Elements of Full Proposal

- I. Completed and signed Face Page (see Appendix I: Face Page Template):
 - a. Project Title
 - b. Name, signatures of PIs and Department Chairs with contact information from both Michigan Medicine and PKUHSC (*note: if the U-M applicant's main appointment is outside of Michigan Medicine, cost-sharing approval from the respective Department Chair should be included here*)
 - c. Requested funding and established cost-sharing for each institution with a breakdown by project year
 - d. Compliance information

- II. Research Plan

- Formatting requirement: Single spaced, 11 pt. font in Calibri or Arial.
 - Page limits:
 - Discovery Awards: 5 pages
 - Pilot Awards: 10 pages
 - Innovation Bridge Awards: 5 pages

The Research Plan should include the following sections:

- a. Executive summary
- b. Specific Aims (no more than 4)
- c. Significance: Importance of the problem to be addressed in the proposal, scientific premise for the proposed project, and impact of anticipated outcomes
- d. Research Approach:
 - i. Experimental design/rationale
 - ii. Description of major tasks and respective task leads
 - iii. Proposed timelines for major tasks and milestones
 - iv. Future directions and research plans for the next three years
 - v. Opportunity for subsequent funding (beyond the scope of the seed project)

- III. Plan for Protection of Human Subjects

- IV. NIH Biosketch of Key Personnel (maximum 5 pages per individual)

- V. Plans (if any) for interchange of personnel between institutions (include: name of mentors and trainees, training time frame, training objectives/curriculums/activities, and description of the trainees' major role in the project)

- VI. Identification of project-relevant background intellectual property (if applicable)

- VII. Letters of support from Department or Divisional Chair with cost-sharing approval (required for non-Michigan Medicine applicants)

- VIII. Budget and Justification (see Appendix II: Budget Template):

Line item budget:

- a. Personnel:
 - up to 50% of total budget
 - PKUHSC personnel budget limits to temporary research members
 - name/role on project
 - percentage of effort

- base salary/fringe benefits
- tuition, stipend, and equipment shall not be included in the JI budget
- b. Supplies/materials
- c. Participant fees/costs (i.e., expenses per participant including travel, tests, payment for time)
- d. Travel (for PIs to meet face to face in Ann Arbor/Beijing and attend the annual Joint Institute symposia; \$4,000 per trip and up to two trips per year)

Budget justification:

For each category above, briefly describe and provide justification for each item. Costs must be broken out for both Michigan Medicine and PKUHSC participants. Faculty salary will be considered only for U-M faculty who are integrally involved in the research aspects of the proposal. Salaries for other non-faculty personnel (e.g., research staff) may be included. Lodging and other living expenses are to be borne by the home institutions of the visiting researchers.

Evaluation of Project Proposals

1. Peer Review

Proposals will be reviewed by two peer reviewers familiar with the subject matter areas and funding environment in the U.S. and China respectively, on the following modified NIH criteria in making the selection of successful proposals:

- Significance: Impact and significance of the work
- Investigators: Qualifications of PIs
- Innovation: Shifting current research and clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, methodologies, or interventions
- Approach: Appropriateness of research design and methodology
- Environment: Resources available at both institutions to carry out the proposed project

In addition, a major emphasis will be placed on the potential for meaningful collaboration that will be demonstrated by ongoing exchange, trust building, insights into the cultural differences in how research is executed, a willingness to work within the JI structure, and commitment to stay engaged in the collective work of the JI including an interest in the projects of others.

2. JI Leadership Review

The JI Executive Committee will consolidate the peer reviewer comments, and evaluate the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Synergy between Michigan Medicine and PKUHSC
- Relevance to the objective of the collaboration
- Potential for external funding
- Cost-effectiveness

3. JI Board Approval

The JI Executive Committee will recommend funding for selected projects. The JI Executive Board will review the recommendations for approval of funding decisions.

Release of Funds

The funding allocation for each project will be informed by the estimated budgets that are reviewed within the context of the submitted project proposals; suggested modifications may be part of the award negotiation. Both PIs shall agree with the Joint Institute Policy on Intellectual Collaboration, Authorship, and Data Sharing (Appendix III). IRB and/or IACUC approvals from both PKUHSC and Michigan Medicine must be obtained in order to access the funds.

The award duration usually is two years. However, year 2 funds will be subject to year 1 progress. Upon project completion, any residual funds will be returned to the JI.

Annual Progress Review

Projects are anticipated to accomplish milestones and/or deliverables after year-one and year-two for progress and quality reviews. Funded project teams will submit annual progress reports. The reports will include project updates, progresses towards long-term goals, and external grant application results. The JI Program Leads will provide JI Leadership Annual Review for assessment and recommendations.

Contact

Please direct any additional questions to:

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