



Faculty of Medicine, Basic Science Department Bridge Funding Program

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Research Bridge Support Fund is to provide interim support for productive core faculty members of the basic science departments who have experienced challenges in receiving external grant support from peer-reviewed funding agencies. Availability of bridge funds is intended to ensure continuity of the faculty members' research program, which will eventually lead to successful grant applications to external funding agencies. Specifically, bridge funding supports:

- Generation of sufficient data to satisfy reviewers comments;
- Completion of ongoing research to reach fruition (e.g. publication);
- Developing new methodologies and technologies.

ELIGIBILITY

Core faculty members (tenured or tenure-track) who have been a PI (not merely a co-PI) of peer-reviewed research grants in the last 3-5 years but who have exhausted funding as a result of unsuccessful renewal application(s). Investigators who hold multiple externally-funded grants are not eligible unless all of their external funds have been exhausted.

The funds may be provided to applicants of unsuccessful renewal grants that are deemed to be competitive by review panels of major funding agencies (national or international).

Applicants must provide clearly outlined plans for future applications to external funding agencies when bridge funding is applied for.

USAGE OF THE BRIDGE FUNDS

Bridge funds are used primarily to cover salary support of technical personnel of the lab and expenditures directly related to the proposed/ongoing research. Funds may not be used for equipment, travel, or as graduate student stipends. [Applicants may seek funds to cover student stipends from respective Graduate Programs.]

TERM OF THE BRIDGE FUNDS

A maximum of **\$50,000** per year may be requested. Funds are transferred to the applicants cost center in two installments on April 15th and November 1st. The first installment is \$30,000 and the second \$20,000. A report summarizing progress (e.g. relevant publications, grant submissions) is required one

month prior to the end of first funding period, to justify transfer of the second installment. Continuation of provision of bridge funding depends upon satisfactory progress. If an external grant(s) is obtained during the bridge funding period, the unused portion of the funds will be recovered by the Faculty. Bridge funding is not renewable.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

The deadline for application for bridge funding is March 15th and September 30th. Applications must be submitted electronically to Office of the Vice Dean, Research.

A complete application consists of:

- A cover letter (no longer than 2 pages) by the applicant specifying the reason and needs for bridge funding. The letter must state clearly the objectives expected to be achieved with the bridge funds, and a clear plan for submission of grant applications to external funding agencies.
- A letter from the Department Chair, which must provide strong support for the application and state clearly the mechanisms that are in place at the departmental level for an effective internal grant review process.
- A CV of the PI (and co applicants if relevant) provided in the format of the granting agency from which grant support was sought in order to assess the strengths/weaknesses as they might be seen by the relevant agency. If needed, additional information specifying the funding and publication record for the past seven years, as well as ongoing research activities, including the number of PhD/MSc/PhD trainees and technical staff, can be added to the CV
- A copy of the failed grant application(s) (excluding CV Module and Budget Module) together with the corresponding reviewers and Scientific Officer's comments.
- A response to the granting agency review statements (no more than 3 pages). The response must include strategies to address the deficiencies identified in previous application(s).
- Brief budget and justification - Do not exceed **\$50,000** in total.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

The first level of review for bridge funding is conducted by the Department Chair in consultation with the DTTC. The letter requesting bridge funds from the Chair must describe the strengths and weaknesses of both the P.I. (and co applicants if relevant) and the research project for which support is requested and a recommendation by the Committee.

Applications deemed competitive will subsequently be reviewed by the Faculty of Medicine Bridge Fund Committee. The committee is composed of 6 faculty members representing each basic science department and a non-voting chair elected among the 6 members. Two members from each department will be elected either by the DTTC or by the Departmental Assembly. Members of the Committee should be supported by at least one active grant from a peer-reviewed granting agency. For a successful approval, the application must receive a majority (3 or more) vote by the Committee in favor.

Recommendation of approval will be submitted to VD Research. Notice of award will be provided to the applicants within four (4) weeks.