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## **DANA J. MARRA RESEARCH AWARD**

### **Request for Applications**

#### **Purpose**

The Dana J. Marra Research Fund, created in 2012 through the generosity of Gayle Crick Fischer, was established to fund research initiatives in the College of Pharmacy. The award is intended to support research, specifically, geared toward the understanding of or eventual discovery of treatments and/or cures for squamous cell esophageal cancer. In the event a cure is discovered for squamous cell esophageal cancer, the fund may be used to support research geared toward the understanding of or eventual discovery of treatments and/or cures for other forms of cancer or to support a graduate student, resident, or post-doctoral fellow doing research in oncology.

Awards will be granted to regular tenure, clinical, and primary research track faculty whose primary appointment is in the College of Pharmacy. The award is to support initial studies directed toward innovative, promising scientific pursuits. Collaborative, multi-PI proposals, especially those with PIs from different College of Pharmacy departments, are encouraged. For such proposals, at least one PI must have a primary appointment in the College of Pharmacy regular tenure, clinical, or research faculty track. The contact PI must hold a College of Pharmacy appointment. An account will be established, and the funds will be disbursed to the contact PI for use during the award period.

For this funding period (FY25), up to \$75,000 will be awarded for a period of up to 12 months where a, one-time, 4-month no-cost extension may be requested. Funds may be used for salaries and wages of project personnel except for tenure and clinical track faculty, supplies, equipment, animal care or other justified expenditures (e.g., visiting another laboratory to learn a new technique). Inappropriate uses of funds include (but are not limited to) attending scientific or professional meetings and payment of publication (e.g., page charges, reprints) or membership fees. Additionally, you will be required to submit progress reports as outlined in your award.

The deadline for application will be November 1, 2024, at 5pm for an anticipated funding start date of March 1, 2025. Please ensure that you contact Research Administration with your intent to apply as they will assist you with the administrative process and guidelines for this competition.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed for merit and appropriateness of budget by the Research Resources Committee. The committee may solicit input from other College of Pharmacy faculty with needed expertise. For applicants with significant discretionary or start-up funds, a description of how these resources will be used to leverage the requested Research Stimulus funding is required.

After reviews are completed, the Research Resources Committee will make funding recommendations to the Associate Dean for Research. Funds will not be allocated if none of the proposals is deemed worthy of support.

## Application Procedure

1. Please email the Office of Research Administration's Pre-Award team with your intent to submit for this award at [cop.preaward@umich.edu](mailto:cop.preaward@umich.edu) . You will be assigned an administrator to assist you in the budget and administrative processes for your application.
2. All proposals must include the following to be considered for funding (*Please observe the font size and page margin specifications required by the NIH*):
  - a. Cover Page (*Template Required*)
  - b. Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Personnel (*NIH Format*)
  - c. Other Support for Senior/Key Personnel (*NIH Format*)
    - i. Available discretionary and/or start-up funds is required.
  - d. Has this or a similar proposal been submitted elsewhere (e.g., MICHR or NIH)? If so, please indicate where it was submitted and provide a brief description of the outcome, including the summary statement/review (if available). These reviews are for the use of the Research Resources Committee only and will not be made available to external reviewers.
  - e. Budget & Budget Justification (*Template Required*)
    - i. If you are on the "Primary Research Scientist" Faculty Track, you must explain how this work is independent of ongoing research in the laboratory of your supervisor. That is, how the funding of this application will lead to your functioning as an independent investigator?
    - ii. If you have previously been funded by a College of Pharmacy internal award, please indicate the title of the proposal, dates and amount funded, and any publications or grant applications (and whether these applications were funded) that have resulted from this research.
    - iii. If you have previously been funded by a College of Pharmacy internal award, you must justify why an additional expenditure of funds is warranted for this application.
  - f. Research Proposal (*Maximum of 3 Pages*)
    - i. Using the [Heilmeier Catechism](#), please answer the following questions in your proposal.
      1. What are you trying to accomplish? What health problem(s) are you trying to solve? (*Maximum of ½ Page*)
      2. Innovation & Impact (*Maximum of 1 Page*)
        - a. How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?
        - b. What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?
        - c. Who cares? If you are successful, what difference will it make?
    - ii. Preliminary Data & Experimental Design (*Maximum of 1.5 Pages*)
    - iii. References (*Excluded from page limit*)
3. Please submit your complete application in a single PDF file, electronically, to [CoP.InternalAward@umich.edu](mailto:CoP.InternalAward@umich.edu) by the listed deadline.