

**Academy of Distinguished Educators  
University of Virginia School of Medicine**

**Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Research and Innovation Grants  
Request for Letters of Intent to Submit a Proposal — Deadline: Monday, March 5, 2012**

**Please note that there is now a 2-step procedure, starting with a 2 page Letter of Intent**

The Academy announces its ninth round of grants for research and innovations in medical education. Support is limited to research and innovations related to the following two areas of undergraduate medical education (UME): 1. The four year Next Generation Medical Curriculum and 2. Interprofessional Education.

**Eligible PIs:** The lead PI must be a faculty member of the UVa School of Medicine

**Two categories of awards are made:**

- **Medical Education Research: 1-year or 2-year proposals (up to \$25,000/year):** These are research studies using comparison and experimental groups in sufficient numbers to provide adequate power for statistical analysis. Where possible, it is desirable to have randomized assignment of students to groups. This can include but not be limited to studies testing two types of didactic method such as in-person lecturing versus use of pod-casts; controlled evaluations of the efficacy of certain educational interventions, such as the inclusion of computer simulation versus clinical vignettes. Both quantitative and qualitative research projects are appropriate
- **Innovations in Medical Education: 1-year proposals (up to \$15,000):** These are evaluation studies of educational enhancements without comparison groups. Outcome data are required in order to describe the effects of the innovation. Included in this category are descriptive observational, interview, and survey studies to determine the current status of or impact of educational interventions (innovative or pre-existing) designed to improve medical student skill, knowledge or attitude.

Principal Investigators must specify which type of grant they are applying for: **Medical Education Research** or **Innovations in Medical Education**. (See content of Letter of Intent below.) Abstracts of previously successful applications are available at

<http://www.medicine.virginia.edu/administration/faculty/ade/grants>

**Research topics:** Some areas of interest include but are not limited to:

clinical skills development	medical errors	teamwork in patient care delivery
educational outcomes	medical legal issues	ethnic and cultural disparities
medical students and duty hours	medical student selection	assessment
interprofessional education	impact of curriculum changes	patient simulation
instructional technology	web-based instruction	curriculum integration
game technology in med education	communication	professionalism

These areas of interest should not discourage faculty from developing proposals in other areas if they pertain to the Next Generation Curriculum or to Interprofessional Education.

**Letter of Intent to Submit a Proposal**

To streamline the submission process and make it more efficient, we are substantially changing the submission procedure. Interested PIs must first submit a Letter of Intent to Submit a Proposal.

**Format for the Letter of Intent:**

Please include these headings and sections in your letter. Letters are limited to 2 pages in length, double-spaced, in New Times Roman #10 or larger font:

1. Title for the project, name and title of PI and list of all co-PIs
2. Category of proposal: "Medical Education Research" or "Innovation in Medical Education"
3. Rationale for the proposed project
4. Brief summary of the methodology
5. Potential impact on the Next Generation Curriculum or on Interprofessional Education (IPE)
6. Describe potential impact on national UME

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**Time Line:**

March 5, 2012 by 5:00 PM	– Deadline for Letters of Intent to Submit a Proposal
March 26, 2012	– PIs of selected Letters of Intent will be invited to submit full proposals
May 7, 2012 by 5:00 PM	– Deadline for Full Proposals
June 4, 2012	– Notification of Awards

**Submission:** Submit Letters of Intent electronically as Word or PDF attachments to Dr. Larry Merkel at [rlm3u@virginia.edu](mailto:rlm3u@virginia.edu). If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Merkel or Dr. Bloodgood ([rab4m@virginia.edu](mailto:rab4m@virginia.edu)).

- Submissions that do not meet either category will be rejected immediately.
- Submissions that are misclassified as to category will be returned to the PI with a request to either alter the proposal to fit the specified category or resubmit under the appropriate category.

**Review Process:** All Letters of Intent to Submit Proposals (both Innovations and Research) will be reviewed by the same ADE committee as will review final proposals. A small number of Letters of Intent will be invited to submit full proposals. Additional information on the preparation of full proposals (maximum length 8 pages) will be provided at that time. The final proposals will be reviewed without knowledge of the budget; only after the proposals have been ranked will the budgets be examined. The review committee reserves the right to award less than the requested amount of money. A variety of criteria will be used in making funding decisions (ranking; balance between research and innovation proposals; balance between projects related to education in clinical and basic sciences).

**Award Notification:** The Dean's Office will notify primary investigators whose proposals have been chosen for funding. By accepting the funding, PIs agree to fulfill the following requirements for reporting their research findings:

- PIs must present a poster on their project in the 2014 or 2015 ADE Medical Education Research Poster Session.
- PIs must submit a progress report by July 1, 2013.
- At the completion of the project, PIs must submit a final report no later than October 1, 2013, for one-year grants and October 1, 2014, for two-year grants. The final report should include a summary of the findings, citations for any publications and presentations outside UVA resulting from the research, and plans for future funding related to this research.