



LaunchPad

Biomedical Innovation in Diabetes

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUBMISSION DUE: FEBRUARY 18, 2013

Program: The LaunchPad program is a translational research fund supporting collaborative research projects that propose innovative and viable solutions to curing, treating or diagnosing Diabetes. The program was created to leverage the robust discovery capacity at UVA to strategically fund projects holding exceptional promise for achieving translational outcomes (such as clinical testing, creation of meaningful, licensable IP, formation of a start-up company). For evaluating the innovation and translational potential of the proposed projects, the program employs a diverse and engaged advisory board with the expertise in Science, Medicine, Engineering, Intellectual Property, Business, Entrepreneurism, Life Sciences Investing, Regulatory Affairs and Health Product Development.

The program is interested in all proposals with potential application in the Type 1 Diabetes setting. Proposed research impacting both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetics will also be considered. Broad areas of particular interest include: autoimmunity, stem cell differentiation, T-cell replacement, imaging, alternative islet cell transplant sites, and regeneration. The LaunchPad program is possible due to a generous gift from Paul and Diane Manning.

Eligibility: At least one investigator from each team is required to be permanent, full-time, tenure-track faculty at professorial rank (assistant, associate, or full professor) with a primary appointment in the School of Medicine or School of Nursing. Eligible investigators may submit more than one proposal.

Criteria: Each proposal will be scored based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific Merit and Innovation

- Strength of the research plan and likelihood to achieve stated milestones with the proposed resources
- Uniqueness or innovativeness of approach, likelihood for novel findings
- Potential for follow-on funding from private or public sources
- Strength and additive contributions of the team members

2. Potential for translational outcomes

- Experiments enable creation of meaningful IP
- Attractiveness of IP for licensing or start-up company formation
- Potential of data to affect clinical practice or stimulate clinical trials

Submission: It is highly recommended that applicants contact **Greg Fralish, Ph.D., Program Director, Clinical and Translational Research, School of Medicine (434.982.6829; gfralish@virginia.edu)** prior to submission to discuss the proposal idea.

The attached proposal template should be used for all submissions.

Applications may not exceed five pages, excluding a cover page, a budget page, and two-page CVs from the co-investigators. Use Arial 12 font and 1" margins. References, tables and figures are included in the five-page limit. The cover page must contain the project title, names of the investigator(s), amount requested, a 300-word limit summary, and the approval/signature of the department chair(s). Key elements of the proposal include: specific milestones and research plan for achieving them; explanation of clinical impact of research (e.g., envisioned product, clinical need); intellectual property status, strategy and plan; list of current funding and pending proposals for each co-investigator; plan for funding after LaunchPad award expires.

Duration: Grants will be awarded for a one-year period and are to be apportioned according to progress towards the proposed milestones. Six-month progress reporting in the form of a brief written report (2-page) and presentation (10 min) to the review board will be required. The purpose of the review is to gauge and facilitate progress, discuss solutions to unanticipated hurdles and identify critical steps for enablement of translation.

Awardees from previous funding cycles are eligible to apply for additional funding. Competitive renewal applications should include a comparison of milestones achieved vs. those planned in the original submission.

Budgets: Eligible budget items include salary support for project personnel, supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time and travel directly associated with the research activity. Funds cannot be requested or used for F&A costs, administrative support or tuition. Grant budgets should not exceed \$100,000 in direct costs for a one-year period. Budgets should be carefully projected. Funding is expected to begin April, 2013.

LAUNCHPAD PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Each LaunchPad proposal should follow this format.

1. Cover Page

- a. Title and Co PIs
- b. Total amount requested
- c. Executive summary of the novelty and significance of the proposed work (300 words)
- d. Department Head signatures (for each Co-PI)

2. Aims and Research Plan (5 –pages; Use Arial 12 font and 1” margins. References, tables and figures are included in the five-page limit).

Section 2 should include the following sections:

- a. ***Clinical problem and Impact of proposed research*** – This section should describe in specific terms the clinical issues that are being addressed by the proposed research. The impact of positive outcomes from the research on clinical care, treatment or diagnosis of Diabetes should be considered.
- b. ***Specific Aims***
- c. ***Research plan for achieving each aim*** – include the experiments to be performed to achieve each aim; provide supporting preliminary data or progress-to-date as appropriate.
- d. ***Quarterly milestones for expected completion of research plan***
- e. ***Intellectual property status, strategy and plan*** – an important section for this program. Proposal should present its plan for creating the value to enable the creation of licensable IP. Researchers are encouraged to speak with the Greg Fralish and the Patent Foundation prior to submission for assistance in completing this section.
- f. ***List of current funding and pending proposals for each co-investigator; plan for funding after LaunchPad award expires.*** Specific calls for applications, publications, public statements on programmatic interests would support statements that grants will be submitted to the JDRF, ADA and NIH after LaunchPad data is collected. Envisioned titles of follow-on projects and proposals would be supportive as well.

3. Budget information.

Budgets should include project personnel, supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time and travel directly associated with the research activity.

Format to present budget information is flexible.

Note: budgets are reviewed in detail to ensure that costs are being adequately considered and feasible for the proposed project.

4. Two page CVs of Co-PIs.