IAS Call for High Impact Collaborative Proposals

IAS is requesting proposals from any IAS participating faculty members to award seed funding that will lead to high impact transdisciplinary projects. Proposals that will advance any of IAS's three missions—research, education, and community engagement and service—are encouraged. Proposals will require a brief narrative and budget and should propose work that can be completed within 1-year, but serve as the basis for a longer-term initiative, as described below.

Research. Collaborators can seek up to $100,000 funding to obtain critical preliminary data or to develop infrastructure to support new collaborative multi-investigator/multi-study collaborative research programs. The seed funding must be used as a steppingstone to compete for Center grants, program project grants, or other large grants that support multiple projects within them (e.g., NIH P50, P01, U54). Although Center grants or program projects are preferred, the funding can be used to purse multiple integrated single-project grants aligned with a common theme (e.g., R01s).

Education. Collaborators can seek up to $30,000 funding for materials and effort to develop a new initiative to enhance the quality and impact of addiction science education and increase the breadth and diversity of students who enroll. This can include programs to recruit underrepresented students, to develop novel education programs (e.g., workshops, short courses, certificate programs, bachelors, etc.), conferences that enhance knowledge of a particular topic within addiction science that benefits scholars and/or the community. Importantly, innovative teaching techniques may be an area that can be supported by this initiative such as new collaborative courses on topics that are typically overlooked in education but are relevant across the broad spectrum of fields in academia and at USC (e.g., addiction in entertainment/arts/communication/sociology).

Community engagement and service. Proposals can seek up to $50,000 funding for projects aimed at working collaboratively with and increasing engagement with community-based organizations to address issues affecting the well-being of people with addiction. Projects should aim to establish an infrastructure for leveraging subsequent programs through external funding (e.g GNC grants, foundation support). This can include programs to establish community-research partnerships, assessing community needs though the development of stakeholder groups, and/or pilot evaluations of evidence based interventions.

Terms. Faculty can be at any rank, must be an IAS member, and must include an interdisciplinary team including applicants at 2+ different USC schools. Applications proposing collaborative initiatives involving multiple institutions and community organizations within the Southern California region or (inter)nationally is encouraged but not required. Because of the nature of these initiatives, they will be evaluated on a rolling admissions basis.

Proposal Guidelines and Submission

Proposal Components (all single spaced with 0.5" margins, 11pt font):

- Cover letter including: (a) the names, professional titles, affiliations (school/department), and email address of each investigator, (b) the title of the proposal, (c) a <250-word abstract, and (d) which of the three missions the applicants wish to be considered for.
- NIH-style biosketches of the applicant and each investigator (<5 pages each).
- A Specific Aims page (1 page)
- Narrative describing the significance, innovation, approach, dissemination plan, and next steps (4 pages)
- NIH-style line-item budget with a budget justification
- Any specialized facilities (1 page; optional). If specific materials or facilities within IAS clinical core are needed (e.g., breathalyzers, carbon monoxide monitors, lab space with one-way mirrors),

Review: Proposals will be reviewed by the USC IAS Review Committee, as well as by selected external reviewers. Scoring of proposals will be based on the standard NIH 9-point scoring system. The 4-page narrative should be structured to include each of the following subsections, which are also the criteria the review committee will use to
evaluate the project:

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier to progress in addiction science? Does the study have potential to generate new transdisciplinary knowledge that can impact science, prevention, clinical practice, or policy?

Investigator(s). Does the applicant have appropriate experience and training? Is there evidence of productivity and/or potential to become an independent investigator in the area of addiction science research? do the co-investigators provide additional expertise and experience that will support project and applicant success

Innovation. Does the proposal utilize novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are study limitations acknowledged and addressed? Is there evidence that project timelines are likely to be met?

Dissemination Plan. Proposed plan to ensure findings reach the scientific community, including a listing of intended scientific manuscript[s] that will be submitted relevant to addressing each aim, and, if relevant, plan to ensure results reach other relevant stakeholders [e.g., general public, clinicians, community]).

Next Steps. Applicants must discuss the next step in obtaining external funding including a funding source and mechanism (e.g., NIDA R01 – PAR-20-185) and timeline for submitting the proposals, including the likely investigators on the future proposal).

The review committee will also consider whether the proposed budget and timeline are appropriate for the scope and pilot nature of the project and whether human subject or other regulatory issues are likely to pose problems for study implementation.

Reporting. All projects selected for funding will be required to submit a 6 month and annual progress report and present on the findings from the project upon completion at a future IAS Institute-Wide Meeting to Research Program Meeting.

Application Procedures. Please send your application with all above components in single PDF document to Victoria.williams.0@usc.edu