MICHR ACCELERATING SYNERGY AWARD

PURPOSE: The MICHR Accelerating Synergy Award is designed to enable investigative teams to address significant, complex, and multifaceted research problems in the areas of clinical and translational science using an interdisciplinary approach. The composition of the integrative research team should facilitate pursuit of a unified scientific goal that could not be achieved through individual efforts. Research that spans disciplines (eg, health, physical, and social sciences) and cuts across multiple phases of the translational spectrum (T1-T4) is encouraged. Applications from any areas of translation are eligible, but MICHR is particularly interested in proposals that address the following priorities: 1) pediatrics, 2) geriatrics, and 3) underrepresented populations.

We expect that the results obtained from this funding will be used to develop a compelling and competitive external large-scale proposal (eg, NIH U- or P-series grant). Being competitive for large-scale proposals requires significant advanced planning, a well-defined and central research theme, strong preliminary data, and a history of partnership among collaborating investigators. The goal of this award is to position research teams for future large-scale proposal success.

ELIGIBILITY: Faculty members with primary appointments at the University of Michigan (U-M) are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators (PIs). Typically, PIs will be mid-career faculty who have a history of funding and publication success in the field of the proposed research. At minimum, three faculty members must be represented on the proposal, as Co-PIs or Co-Investigators, from at least two Schools/Colleges and three departments at U-M. A Co-PI model is strongly recommended to set the foundation for the external large-scale proposal. Partnerships with industry or community are encouraged.

FUNDING: MICHR is offering two Accelerating Synergy Award mechanisms – 1) Positioning and 2) Grant Development – that align with project needs and anticipated time to external large-scale proposal submission. Each award will provide $100,000 in funding for one year. All funds must be spent in this timeframe and will not be eligible for a no-cost extension. If needed, Accelerating Synergy: Positioning awardees will be eligible to apply for Accelerating Synergy: Grant Development funds during future funding cycles. Use the table below to identify the appropriate mechanism for your proposal.

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<th>Award Mechanisms</th>
<th>Time to External Submission</th>
<th>Goals of Mechanism</th>
<th>Use of Funds</th>
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<td>Accelerating Synergy: Positioning</td>
<td>Applicants should be approximately <strong>two years</strong> from submitting an external large-scale proposal</td>
<td>To provide teams with funds to: • obtain preliminary data  • work and publish with collaborators, thereby establishing a strong history of partnership</td>
<td>Funds should primarily be allocated to the conduct of research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accelerating Synergy: Grant Development</td>
<td>Applicants should be approximately <strong>one year</strong> from submitting an external large-scale proposal</td>
<td>To provide teams with funds to: • support the time and resources required to develop an external large-scale proposal, which must be submitted by the end of the one-year award period  • obtain final preliminary data</td>
<td>Funds should primarily be allocated to grant development (eg, effort, resources), with a smaller amount supporting research</td>
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RESTRICTIONS: Support of new, individual research projects (e.g., R01-type efforts) will not be considered under this mechanism. Applicants are limited to one submission per funding cycle. The NIH-National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), which funds MICHR, will not provide prior approval for pilot grants that propose research conducted outside of the United States. In addition, NCATS only permits funding of clinical trials through the end of Phase IIA, with the exception of certain activities involving treatment of a rare disease or condition. Per NCATS, Phase II clinical trials are designed to test drugs for efficacy (or effectiveness) and side effects in a limited number of patients. Phase IIA trials provide data for exposure-response in patients, while Phase IIB trials provide data for dose-ranging in patients.

SUBMISSION PROCESS & TIMELINE: There are two stages to the application and review process:

- Stage 1: Interested individuals are invited to submit a pre-application due February 15, 2018 at 5 pm.
  - Pre-application guidelines and submission portal are available through Competition Space. Please refer to the MICHR Accelerating Synergy competition.

- Stage 2: Competitive Stage 1 applicants will be invited to:
  - Submit a five-page proposal (complete guidelines and deadline to follow).
  - Meet with reviewers for a brief presentation and Q&A.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS: Review criteria are similar to NIH, with applications being scored on 1) significance, 2) investigator and team, 3) innovation, 4) approach, 5) environment and 6) overall impact. Reviewers will also consider the likelihood of the research team to develop a competitive external large-scale proposal based on alignment of research goals with the external funding opportunity announcement of interest (see pre-application guidelines) and assessment of the research career(s) of the PI and/or Co-PIs.

STAGE 2 AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES: MICHR will provide awardees with a tailored plan of support that extends beyond financial commitment. Awardees will be expected to use the services outlined in their plans and to provide progress updates as requested. Fundable applications that propose human subjects or vertebrate animal research must proceed to a second level of review by NIH-NCATS; their approval must be obtained before funds are released. From the time you are notified of your fundable score by MICHR, you will have two weeks to submit your protocol to the IRB or IACUC and three months to obtain approval. If approval is not obtained within this timeframe, MICHR reserves the right to deny funding.

CONTACT INFORMATION
For questions about this grant mechanism, contact the MICHR Pilot Grant Program.

For assistance developing your project, request a consultation with the MICHR Research Development Core.
MICHR ACCELERATING SYNERGY PRE-APPLICATION

Due Date: **February 15, 2018 at 5 pm**

Pre-applications will be submitted through [Competition Space](#) and must adhere strictly to the format below. Following review, applicants deemed the most competitive will be invited to submit a five-page proposal; guidelines and deadline will be provided at time of notification. To proceed to review, the pre-application must be complete, addressing all items outlined below, and adhere to page limitations.

Pre-application Format:

1. **Face Page:** Complete using the template in Competition Space.

2. **Abstract (cannot exceed two pages, Arial 11, ½ inch margins):** Complete using the template in Competition Space. Include brief descriptions of the following:
   - Background and importance of the problem
   - Hypothesis and specific aims
   - Research plan, including expected outcomes and impact
   - Timeline with milestones of success
   - Advantages of team composition: If applying to the Grant Development mechanism, you should highlight the history of partnership with your collaborators.
   - The specific external large-scale proposal funding opportunity announcement that you will apply for in the next one (Grant Development mechanism) to two (Positioning mechanism) years. If you are applying to the Grant Development mechanism, indicate your planned external submission date.

3. **References:** Cannot exceed one page.

4. **Biographical Sketches:** Include a current [NIH-style biosketch](#) for each investigator with the role of Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, or Co-Investigator.