MICHR ACCELERATING SYNERGY AWARD

Hosted in Partnership with the Medical School Office of Research

PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2021

PURPOSE: The Accelerating Synergy Award is designed to enable investigative teams to address significant, complex, and multifaceted research problems 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. We expect that the results obtained from this funding will be used to develop a compelling and competitive external large-scale grant, which we typically define as NIH applications with multiple project and/or core components (eg, P01, P30, P50, U24, U54, UM1); multicomponent applications to other Department of Health & Human Services agencies will also be considered. Being competitive for a large-scale grant 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 grant success.

ACCELERATING SYNERGY AWARD MECHANISMS: In collaboration with the Medical School Office of Research, we are pleased to offer two Accelerating Synergy Award mechanisms:

- Basic Research
- Translational Research

FUNDING: For either mechanism, faculty will need to select the appropriate planning stage – 1) Positioning or 2) Grant Development – that aligns with project needs and anticipated time to external large-scale grant submission. Each award will provide $100,000 in funding for one year. If needed, previous Positioning awardees who have expended their funds are eligible to apply for up to $50,000 under the Grant Development planning stage. Preference will be given to applicants who have not yet received an Accelerating Synergy Award. Use the table below to identify the appropriate planning stage for your proposal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Stage</th>
<th>Time to External Submission</th>
<th>Goals of Mechanism</th>
<th>Use of Funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positioning</td>
<td>Applicants should be approximately two years from submitting an external NIH large-scale grant</td>
<td>To provide teams with funds to: • Obtain/finalize preliminary data • Continue publishing with collaborators, thereby solidifying a strong history of partnership</td>
<td>Funds should primarily be allocated to the conduct of research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Development</td>
<td>Applicants should be approximately one year from submitting an external NIH large-scale grant</td>
<td>To provide teams with funds to: • Support personnel/resources to develop and submit a NIH large-scale grant • Analyze or publish 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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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

All mechanisms: Faculty members with primary appointments at the University of Michigan (U-M) are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators (PIs). PIs should 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-Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators, from at least two Schools/Colleges and three departments at U-M (only primary appointments will be considered).

A Multiple PI (ie, Co-Principal Investigator) model is strongly recommended to set the foundation for the external large-scale grant. It is recommended there be previous collaboration among at least some of the Co-Principal Investigators and/or Co-Investigators. Partnerships with industry or community are encouraged. Applicants not awarded in a previous round of Accelerating Synergy are welcome to resubmit.

If needed, previous Positioning awardees who have expended their funds are eligible to apply for up to $50,000 under the Grant Development planning stage. Preference will be given to applicants who have not yet received an Accelerating Synergy Award.

Applicants pursuing certain types of external large-scale grants, such as NSF Science and Technology Centers, DOE Energy Frontier Research Centers or foundation opportunities, should refer to the UMOR large-scale center and initiative planning grants.

Mechanism-Specific Requirements:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Research</td>
<td>Faculty pursuing basic biomedical science research</td>
<td>At least one PI must have a primary appointment in the Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translational Research</td>
<td>Faculty pursuing any type of research along the translational spectrum (T1-T4)</td>
<td>Any faculty member at U-M may serve as PI</td>
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</table>

The mechanism you select for your application will have no impact on the review process or funding decisions. MICHR will reassign your application to the appropriate mechanism as needed.

RESTRICTIONS:

Support of new, individual research projects (eg, R01-type efforts) will not be considered for the Accelerating Synergy Award. Applicants are limited to one submission per funding cycle. This mechanism is intended to support the pursuit of new large-scale grants and not renewal efforts. Applicants cannot receive funding from both Accelerating Synergy and the UMOR large-scale center and initiative planning grant for the same project.

MICHR’s NIH Clinical & Translational Science Award grant cannot fund pilot grants that include a foreign research component. In addition, NIH-National Center for Advancing Translational (NCATS) only permits funding of clinical trials through the end of Phase IIB, 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 phases to the application process:

- **Phase 1**: Interested investigators are invited to submit a pre-application due **August 18, 2021**.
  - Pre-application guidelines and submission portal are available through Competition Space. Please refer to the *MICHR Accelerating Synergy Pre-Application* competition.

- **Phase 2**: Competitive Phase I applicants will be invited to submit a five-page application due in October 2021 (guidelines and exact deadline to follow).

ACCELERATING SYNERGY PRE-APPLICATION GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2021

Pre-applications must be submitted through Competition Space (*MICHR Accelerating Synergy Pre-Application competition*) and adhere to the format below. Following an administrative review, applicants deemed competitive will be invited to submit a full proposal; guidelines for the full proposal and deadline will be provided at time of notification.

PRE-APPLICATION SUBMISSION: Pre-applications must be submitted in UMMS Competition Space. Please refer to the *MICHR Accelerating Synergy Pre-Application* competition and use the standardized form provided.

PRE-APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

You are required to address all items below in your pre-application:

- Title of proposed research
- Accelerating Synergy Mechanism: Select either Basic Research or Translational Research
- Planning Stage: Select either Positioning or Grant Development
- Name and department of the contact Principal Investigator
- Names and departments of additional Principal Investigator(s), Co-Investigators and Collaborators
- Identify the specific external large-scale grant funding opportunity announcement you will apply for in the future
- Brief narrative (500 words or less) that addresses the following:
  - Describe your broad research vision for an external large-scale grant. Emphasize the importance of the research problem and the benefits of addressing it through an integrated large-scale effort (compared to multiple, individual R01s).
  - Explain the advantages of your proposed team composition, particularly as it relates to disciplinary diversity and the research successes (e.g., publication and funding history) of the PI(s). Highlight any history of collaboration among team members.
PRE-APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS: The following items will be considered during the administrative review of your pre-application: 1) career stage of the applicants (it is expected the contact PI will be an Associate Professor or above), 2) funding and publication history of PI(s), 3) faculty representation (PIs and/or Co-Is) from at least two Schools/Colleges and three Departments (primary appointments only), 4) history of collaboration among some team members, and 5) alignment of the research vision and future external funding opportunity announcement with goals of the Accelerating Synergy program (see Purpose on Page 1).

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.