Background – Training grants such as NIH T32s or NSF IGERTs provide crucial support for the educational mission of interdisciplinary research programs. These applications have unique requirements and can be burdensome for academic departments to pull together. The mission of IEM is to turn science and engineering into medical practice. Facilitating the development of training grants that bring engineering approaches to bear on health problems is a core IEM strategy to fulfill this mission.

IEM’s Training Grant Accelerator facilitates the development of highly competitive training grant applications by offering financial support along with dedicated professional staff support to faculty teams that are developing eligible training grants.

Funding – Successful applicants will receive a $30,000 award. We anticipate making two awards in 2020. Training Grant PIs are required to support a minimum of 1.0 months of their effort from this award or to use this award to make other arrangements that enable the PI to dedicate the necessary time and energy to developing an exceptional training grant application. Any remaining funds are available for discretionary use.

Staff Support – IEM is developing an internal consulting firm that will provide staff support to Training Grant Accelerator clients. IEM staff and Training Grant Accelerator grant PIs (clients) will develop a scope of work collaboratively. IEM will assemble a team of professionals to deliver this scope of work, drawing from partnerships across the university to assemble project teams with the necessary skills and expertise to accelerate each client’s training grant.

Grant Submittal – IEM Training Grant Accelerator clients will have the opportunity to submit their training grant applications through IEM. This model enables IEM T32 training grants, including those from CSE faculty, to count towards the Medical School Blue Ridge rankings.

Eligibility – IEM members developing training grants that apply engineering approaches to medical problems are eligible to apply to this program.

Reporting – Training Grant Accelerator recipients have two reporting obligations: 1) a short presentation at the 2020 IEM Annual Conference, and 2) a one-page progress report due November 1, 2020.

Proposal Evaluation – Proposals will be reviewed by IEM leadership and evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Strength of the proposed team
2. Impact of the proposed training grant on UMN research leadership
3. Potential to support the development of new centers or larger initiatives
Project Period: The project period is for 12-months starting Spring semester 2020.

Deadline: Applications should be submitted in a single pdf to iem@umn.edu by January 6, 2020, 5:00 PM. Questions and application submissions regarding any IEM grant program may be directed to: iem@umn.edu, or Stephanie M. Scott at 612-624-8483.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals should use NIH style formatting and should contain the following:

- Cover Page: (up to 1 page)
  - Project Title
  - Contact PI (name, department, and email address)
  - Other PIs (name and department)
  - Co-Is (names and departments)
  - Project summary (max. 250 words)
  - Department head statement of support

- Training Grant Plan: (up to 2 pages) – Describe the goals of the proposed training grant program and their significance. Explain how the assembled group will develop this program and describe any potential for this training grant to support subsequent efforts to develop externally funded centers or larger initiatives. Describe how this training grant builds on existing medical school and/or CSE strengths and relates to the IEM mission to: turn science and engineering into medical practice.