

**Funding Opportunity Announcement**  
(Revised 8/26/2013)

**Bridge Grants for Established Investigators**

**Application Deadline: Rolling**

**Background:** This program is intended to help PIs of research grant applications that were not funded as resubmissions to NIH or another major federal research agency. More specifically, this program is available to both Associate and Full Professors who plan to acquire additional preliminary data in order to restructure their proposal for submission as a new research grant application within the coming year. These Bridge Grants will provide up to \$100,000 direct costs to support the salary and fringe benefits of the PI and other faculty and staff, student stipends, supplies, equipment, publication costs, and expenses related to human subjects. The proposed research should be performed at a College of Medicine campus. Contingent on the availability of funds, the College will provide up to \$50,000 direct costs plus indirects from Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement (CURE) funds and the PI's Department will provide equal matching funds of up to \$50,000 direct costs. Potential applicants should recognize that the resources available to support Bridge Grants are limited and only the most highly meritorious and promising applications will be funded. Nevertheless, all PIs who are invited to apply will receive written critiques that should be helpful in deciding how to pursue the project in the future. Revised versions of Bridge Grant applications that were previously reviewed and not funded are not eligible for submission in response to this Announcement unless a revised application has been specifically invited. In addition, projects that were supported by a Resubmission or Bridge Grant during the past four years are not eligible for additional support.

Investigators who are preparing new **R01s for submission to NIH** are strongly encouraged to participate in the new PREPARE Pilot Program available through Research Development. The PREPARE program provides the opportunity for PIs to obtain written reviews of draft R01 applications from 3 experts in the USA who generally have NIH-funded research programs and are leaders in their fields but are not current members of the relevant NIH Study Section or former advisors, mentors, students, collaborators or co-authors of the PI. Additional information about this program may be found at: <http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home>. The PREPARE program is available to PIs of new R01s being submitted to NIH whether or not their applications are recommended for funding through the Bridge Grant for Established Investigators program.

**Eligibility Determination:** PIs who are interested in applying for a Bridge Grant should email the Summary Statement from the review of their unfunded resubmission application (for NIH applications, the "A1") to [researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu) for preliminary review and determination of eligibility. PIs of eligible applications will be invited to submit a Bridge Grant application for a specified Receipt Date that will enable the timely evaluation of the application by the Scientific Review Committee, the College of Medicine leadership, and by the Pennsylvania Department of Health for applications that are recommended for funding. PIs who are invited to submit an application should then consult with their Department Chair to confirm that the Department will commit the required matching funds.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

**STEP 1 – Prepare the Bridge Grant Application as a single PDF.** The final PDF should include all of the information listed below in the order indicated:

1. **Cover Page:** Please use the template posted on the Research Development website at <http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home>.
2. **Table of Contents:** Include page numbers starting with the cover page and numbering all pages consecutively.
3. **Letter from the PI:**
  - a. Provide a brief overview of the history of the project, including any previous internal and external funding. For previously-funded projects, include the current balance of funds in the grant account(s) and plans for their expenditure.
  - b. Explain how the proposed Established Investigator Bridge Grant will help you develop a new proposal that will be competitive for funding-i.e. clearly explain what you will be doing differently in order to get your new external application funded.
  - c. Identify the proposed sponsor, the specific grant program, and the application receipt date that you have targeted for the new external application that you plan to develop. If you are preparing an RO1 application to NIH, clarify whether or not you will participate in the PREPARE program and if not, explain why.
4. **Summary Statement:** Include a copy of the entire Summary Statement or other critique for the most recently reviewed version of the unfunded application including priority/percentile scores and any relevant correspondence from the sponsor regarding the review and their decision not to fund the application.
5. **Abstract** of the “research plan” for the **Bridge Grant for Established Investigators** application
6. **NIH Biosketch:** Include a current NIH biosketch (<http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home/forms>) for the **PI with full Other Support**. For all active and pending grant and contract awards, list the sponsor, project title, project period and current year direct costs budget and clearly indicate whether there is or is not any duplication with the studies proposed for support by the Bridge Grant.
7. **Research Plan for the proposed Established Investigator Bridge Grant:** Describe the studies that will be supported by the Bridge Grant in 4 pages including any figures and tables. *In order to prevent the possibility of duplicate funding for the same research, the studies proposed for funding by the Bridge Grant should not be the same studies for which funding will be requested in the application to the external sponsor (except for the acquisition of preliminary data that will be included in the application to the external sponsor).* In other words, the specific aims for the Bridge Grant should not be the same as the aims that the PI plans to propose for the new NIH or other multiyear federal grant. Any questions regarding this requirement should be discussed with the Director, Research Development (X6949). *Please also ensure that the Specific Aims for the proposed studies are achievable within a 12-month period and within the constraints of the funding provided by the Bridge Grant.*
8. **References**
9. **Budget Request:** Provide 2 separate budgets and justifications-one for the CURE funds and one for Department funds-direct costs only, up to \$50,000 each; for budgets utilizing CURE funds, the total cost of out-of-state personnel, subcontractors and consultants must not exceed 2 percent of the total grant costs.
10. **Attachments:** If the studies proposed in the Bridge Grant application involve collaboration with another investigator(s) or the use of facilities or other resources that are under the purview of another investigator(s), include a letter(s) from that investigator(s) to document their contribution(s) to the proposed research. **DO NOT INCLUDE ANY REPRINTS, MANUSCRIPTS, CDs, DVDs, SURVEYS, TESTS, INVENTORIES** or other similar attachments.

**11. Save:** Save the Bridge Grant application in a **single PDF file**.

**STEP 2 – Save a copy of the unfunded application as a separate PDF.**

**STEP 3 – Submit both PDFs electronically to the Research Development Dropbox and provide 4 paper copies of the Bridge Grant Application to Research Development in C1630, as follows:**

1. **Navigate** to the Research Development Dropbox website (<https://rddropbox.hmc.psu.edu/DocDrop/>) and use your Penn State Access ID to login.
2. **Upload** your **Established Investigator Bridge Grant** application as a single PDF file. In the Title dialogue box , title the document as follows: Last name of the PI or Co-PIs-BridgeApp-Date (e.g. Jones-BridgeApp-6-5-2013).
3. **Upload** your **unfunded application** as a single, separate PDF file. Again, title the document as follows: Last name of the PI or Co-PIs-UnfundedApp-Date (e.g. Jones-UnfundedApp-9-12-12).
4. **Deliver** 4 printed copies of the Bridge Grant application (*but not the unfunded proposal*) to Research Development (Room C1630).

**STEP 4 – Request a letter of support for your application from your Department Chair.**

1. The Chair's letter should document his or her agreement to fund 50% of the direct costs of the proposed Bridge Grant and to support any other departmental resources that are committed to the project in the application. If the application is subsequently approved for funding, the Chair will need to identify the budget and fund numbers that will be used to support the departmental match.
2. The Department Chair's letter should be addressed to the Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and sent by email to [researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu).

**Review and Award Criteria:** All applications will be reviewed initially for scientific and technical merit by members of the College of Medicine Scientific Review Committee (SRC) who will prepare brief written critiques that will be forwarded to the PI at the conclusion of the review process. The Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in consultation with the Director, Research Development will consider the recommendations of the SRC and the availability of funding from the CURE Program in making funding decisions. In order to ensure that the greatest institutional benefit will be achieved from these awards, priority will be given to Bridge Grant applications that:

- are recommended as most highly meritorious by the SRC;
- provide salary support for employees who will be jeopardized by the lapse in funding of the renewal grant;
- support the acquisition of preliminary data that will significantly strengthen the new application to the external sponsor;
- are submitted by tenured faculty members who do not currently have substantial external funding and/or recent internal grant awards supported by CURE funds; and
- will strengthen external proposals for larger research projects over longer periods of time.

The PI of a Bridge Grant application recommended for funding will be invited to develop a Pennsylvania Department of Health Certifications Form and Strategic Plan for final approval by the PA Dept of Health prior to the issuance of a Bridge Grant award. PIs of Bridge Grant awards will be required to submit several detailed progress reports and related information to comply with requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (see examples of the PA-DOH Annual Report and Final Report guidelines at <http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home/forms> ). PIs of funded Bridge Grants will also be expected to serve as a member of the Scientific Review Committee for a two-year period, upon request.

**Questions:** Please contact Research Development at [researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu) or x6949.