

UAB Heersink School of Medicine

Team Science Grant Program – Request for Applications (RFA)



Purpose

Team science fosters collaboration among investigators with diverse expertise to address complex scientific challenges. By integrating multiple perspectives, methods, and disciplines, collaborative teams can generate innovative ideas and develop more comprehensive research approaches. Such partnerships enhance the **quality, rigor, and impact of scientific discoveries**.

In addition, interdisciplinary collaborations improve competitiveness for external funding, as many funding agencies prioritize multi-investigator and team-based research programs. Team science initiatives also provide mentorship and training opportunities for students and early-career researchers.

The UAB Heersink School of Medicine (HSOM) invites applications to support team science initiatives that will lead to competitive NIH funding applications, including (but not exhaustive): Program Project Grants (P01); Center Grants (P30, P50, P60); U-series Cooperative Agreements; and Multi-PI R01 Grants, as well as other funding agencies.

⚠ Please note:

Standard single-investigator **R01-type applications will not be considered responsive to this RFA.**

Award Information

Duration: Up to **2 years**

Requested Funds: Up to **\$150,000 per year per application**

Eligibility

- The **contact PI** must hold a **primary appointment in a department within the Heersink School of Medicine** and demonstrate a strong record of accomplishment in the relevant research area.
- All participating **PIs must have a primary or secondary appointment in an HSOM department.**
- Each proposed program must include **at least 3 faculty investigators.**

Proposed projects should align with the **Heersink School of Medicine Strategic Research Plan**, including one or more of the following focus areas:

1. **Disruptive Technology Empowering Precision Health (D-TECH)**
2. **Health Across the Lifecourse (HEAL)**
3. **I-4ward: Infection, Inflammation, Immunity, and Immunotherapy**
4. **Brain Health and Disease Across the Lifespan**
5. **Implementation Science**

Projects may include basic, translational, clinical, or integrated research approaches. Interdepartmental collaborations are **strongly encouraged** when scientifically appropriate.

Cancer-Related Proposals

Beginning in 2021, the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) funds cancer-related RFAs through the O'Neal Invests Program, which has two annual funding cycles (Spring and Fall).

All cancer-related proposals should be submitted through the O'Neal Invests program.

For additional information:
Email: CCC-oneal-invests@uab.edu
Contact: Dr. Susan Ruppert

Funds Available

It is anticipated that **4–6 awards** will be funded in this cycle based on **scientific merit and programmatic impact.**

Key funding details:

- Maximum award: **\$150,000 per year**
- Maximum duration: **2 years**

- Continuation to Year 2 is contingent upon **demonstrated progress and achievement of program benchmarks.**

A **critical benchmark for continued funding** is the **submission of an external grant application within the first year** of the award.

Funds may be used for: Pilot research projects; Development of shared core facilities; Support for non-faculty personnel; and other expenses necessary to develop a competitive external grant proposal.

Intent to Submit

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** online:

 <https://apps.medicine.uab.edu/funding/teamsciencegrantinfo.asp>

Required materials:

- **Letter of Intent (PDF)**
File name format: *PI_LastName_LOI.pdf*
- **NIH Biosketch (PI's)**
File name format: *PI_LastName_Biosketch.pdf*
- **Other Supporting Materials (optional)**

File name format: *PI_LastName_Other.pdf*

LOI Requirements

The Letter of Intent should include:

- Project title
- Brief description of the proposed research
- Identification of participating investigators

If the project has been **previously submitted to the NIH**, please include:

- Submission date
- Summary statement (if available)

For additional details:

 <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/home/research/funding-opportunities>

Review Procedures

Stage 1 – Letter of Intent Review

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the **HSOM REFRESH Committee** based on:

- Track record of the PI's
- Alignment with HSOM research focus areas
- Potential for successful external funding

Competitive LOIs will be invited to submit a **full application**.

Stage 2 – Full Application Review

Full proposals will be evaluated based on: Investigator qualifications and track record; Scientific impact and innovation; Potential for external funding; Alignment with HSOM research priorities; and Lack of duplication with existing programs.

Successful applicants will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports.

Submission Guidelines

Letter of Intent

- **1 page maximum**
- NIH Biosketches of PI's
- Summary statements (if applicable) may be attached and do not count toward the page limit.

Full Application (by invitation only)

Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will receive submission instructions via email.

Cover Page

Include:

- Project title
- Investigator names
- Budget requested

- Duration of award
 - Abstract of proposed work
 - Investigator signatures
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Key Personnel

- Budget
 - Budget justification
 - NIH biosketches for key personnel
-

Research Proposal

Maximum **4 pages**

Formatting requirements:

- 1-inch margins
 - Single spaced
 - Arial 11-point font (tables may vary)
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Critical Elements of the Proposal

Applications should clearly describe:

- The **central theme and goals** of the proposed program
 - Alignment with one or more **HSOM research focus areas**
 - Structure of the **investigator team and collaborative interactions**
 - How the program will lead to **external funding (NIH or other agencies)**
 - Existing or proposed **core facilities**
 - Plan for **management and distribution of funds**
 - **Project timeline**, including:
 - planning meetings
 - collaborative publications
 - development of external applications
 - expected submission timeline
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Frequently Asked Questions

Can faculty salary support be requested?

No. Funds may only support **non-faculty personnel**.

Can collaborators from other institutions receive support?

No. Funding must remain **within UAB**.

Can regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, IND) be delayed until funding decisions are made?

Yes. Applicants may use the **Just-In-Time (JIT)** option.

Can proposals target non-NIH funding agencies?

Yes. Applications to **DOD, DARPA, NSF, ARPA-H or foundations** are allowed and encouraged.

Can NIH budget forms and biosketches be used?

Yes.

Do applications need to be routed through OSP?

No.

Contact Information

Scientific Questions

Shaila Handattu, PhD, MBA

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Heersink School of Medicine

☎ 205-934-9417

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Application Questions

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Schedule:

March 30, 2026	Announcement
May 4, 2026	Deadline for Letter of Intent Submissions
May 15, 2026	Administrative Review Completed
May 20, 2026	Requests for Full Applications
June 19, 2026	Deadline for Full Application Submission
July 17, 2026	Scientific Review Completed
July 27, 2026	Notification of Awards
August 3, 2026	Funding Start Date