Basic Science Research Bridge Funding

It is the intent of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM) that each basic science faculty member will seek to recover appropriate salary support from research grants, commensurate with their percent effort on such grants. It is anticipated that each faculty will actively submit external funding proposals to achieve grants, with the administrative support of HWCOM and the FIU Division of Research. This HWCOM policy is for bridge funding.

- Unfunded tenured investigators will be supported with bridge funding for 1 year while they pursue external funding. If they are not successful they will be reassigned to teaching, administrative activities and other duties as needed.
- Nontenured faculty will be eligible for bridge funding. If unsuccessful in obtaining funding following 1 year of this funding, they maybe given notice of termination, effective 1 year after the bridge funding has ended.

The College recognizes that in this competitive research environment there may be times when externally funded research programs are between cycles. In order to assist faculty in developing more competitive submissions and retain the critical infrastructure of a research laboratory team they are encouraged to pursue the following two internal opportunities:

1. The first approach should be to submit an application to the FIU Division of Faculty Research Support Program (FRSP) – Bridge Funding Program

   [http://research.fiu.edu/funding/internalFunding/bridgeFunding.html](http://research.fiu.edu/funding/internalFunding/bridgeFunding.html)

   The award criteria for this program are:

   “A Principal Investigator on a grant funded for at least three consecutive years (on the same grant or project) by a national funding agency with a bona fide scientific peer-review (e.g., NIH, NSF, American Heart Association) and whose application for continued support from that or another national funding agency with a bona fide scientific peer-review (e.g., NIH competing renewal) has not been funded, shall be eligible for bridge funding”

   There is a 50/50 cost match that is required from the College of Medicine and funding is provided for a maximum of one year. These funds are to maintain current research programs at a level adequate to ensure continuing viability which include support staff, supplies, animals but NOT PI’s salary.

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2. If the applicant is denied the Bridge Funding from the DoR, he/she may apply for an HWCOM internal Bridge Funding program:
   - Eligibility:
     - Faculty who have had sustained support and productivity through NIH, NSF, AHA, or comparable NGO awards (minimum of 3 years) and whose funding has lapsed or who will lose funding in the next 6 months. Funding can be used to keep project team active while creating a new competitive submission.
     - Faculty who had submitted (within the last year) a new application to national funding agency with a bona fide scientific peer-review (e.g., NIH, NSF, American Heart Association), with project period greater than 2 years, which was unfunded but scored and received reviews that indicate proposal could be funded on the next cycle. Funding can be used to keep project team active during resubmission cycle.
     - A PI who has unsuccessfully attempted to convert a smaller grant (e.g. R03, R21) to an R01 or equivalent level grant that was scored and received reviews that indicate proposal could be funded on the next cycle. Funding can be used to improve submission quality.
   - PIs who have submitted a proposal for national funding but who have not been reviewed yet should not submit a proposal until there is clear evidence that funding was denied
   - Maximum request of $50,000 for 1 year
   - Submission can be made at any time during the academic year, if the submission meets the application requirements
   - Funds may be used for support staff, supplies, animals, but NOT PI’s salary
   - If external funding is received, any unused funds will be returned to HWCOM
Details of the application process

I. A principal investigator who meets the requirements for Bridge Funding. The request must contain the following:

1. Account number and name of the interrupted grant funding,
2. Amount of bridge funding requested and the budget allocation (including pertinent information about personnel, equipment maintenance or service contracts, supplies, etc.),
3. Justification/rationale for the requested funding,
4. A requested start and end dates for bridge support (maximum of one year),
5. The budget pages for the final year of the previously funded, but lapsed, grant; a copy of the cover sheet and abstract of the unfunded grant,
6. The anticipated schedule of reapplication for external funding,
7. A copy of the review from the agency (e.g., NIH, NSF, etc.) that rejected the application for external funding,
8. The signed statement at the end of the application: "I certify that I have applied for extramural funds on [date] and will continue to reapply within the next 12 months"