

August 29, 2016

TO: UF/IFAS Faculty
FROM: Jackie K. Burns
SUBJECT: Call for Early Career Scientist Seed Fund Proposals – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

IFAS and the University of Florida are committed to investing to maximize impacts of UF/IFAS research and facilitate success of UF/IFAS research faculty. Key to the long-term success of UF/IFAS research programs is promoting professional development and achievements of UF/IFAS's early career scientists. The research skills and record of research accomplishments established during the early years of a faculty member's career can set the stage and trajectory that shape the rest of the scientist's career.

To promote and facilitate success of early career scientists, the UF/IFAS Dean for Research Office, in partnership with, and funding from the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the University of Florida Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the University of Florida Vice President for Research, is requesting proposals to support research of early career scientists.

Size of Awards: A total of up to \$750,000 will be awarded to as many as 15 faculty to support research efforts. The maximum individual award will be \$50,000 and there is no minimum award size. Requests will be carefully evaluated to determine the linkages between the funding request, the use of funds, and the impacts of the research. Successful grants will be announced on or near December 2, 2016 and should be spent by June 30, 2018.

Eligibility: PI of the proposal must be a tenure-track Assistant Professor with a tenure home in UF/IFAS, have a research appointment, and not be in their final year of the probationary period. Faculty who have already received an early career scientist award are not eligible. Faculty status will be based on rank on December 1, 2016. Faculty must have an approved REEport project or have submitted one for approval prior to submission of their proposal. PIs must also have either already taken the UF/IFAS Grantsmanship Workshop or commit to taking it in 2017.

Award Scope and Criteria: The intent of the funding is to facilitate development and success of research programs of early career scientists. Accordingly, these funds should be used to “jumpstart” programs and provide a platform for future success. Successful proposals will enable development and advancement of projects, collection of new data, or analysis of existing data. Proposals should focus on work that you will be leading, but work that takes place in the context of broader partnerships is also acceptable. The work funded under this program should form part of the foundation that results in eventual significant extramural funding.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

1. Quality of proposal and research design;
2. Potential impact of the research;
3. Potential for the seed funding and pilot research to lead to future extramural funding; and
4. Impact of funding on faculty member's program development.

How to Apply: To apply for this award, email a single PDF to Cassie Sexson (cjlema@ufl.edu) by October 3, 2016 at 5:00pm. The information requested includes:

- Cover sheet (maximum 1 page):
 - a. Project title
 - b. Faculty information (name, unit, email, phone number, and appointment split)
 - c. Collaborator information, if applicable
 - d. Experiment Station (REEport) Project – Hatch, Multi-state or McIntire-Stennis – title and number
 - e. Year UF/IFAS Grantsmanship Workshop was taken, or is planned to be taken
 - f. RCR Training status (completion of federal Responsible Conduct of Research training; if not, you must complete training here before receiving funds)
 - g. Abstract (general audience abstract limited to 200 words)
- Narrative (maximum 5 pages with one inch margins on all sides, at least 11 point font including tables and figures, but not including literature cited):
 - a. Title, PI name and unit, and collaborator name and unit if applicable
 - b. Introduction: An overview of the pertinent literature, justification, and relevance of the project to the faculty member's broader research program and goals
 - c. Expected impact: A description of the potential impacts to stakeholders and to the faculty member's research program
 - d. Methodology: A description of the proposed research, hypotheses to be tested, methodology, and the anticipated research schedule
 - e. Extramural funding strategy: A summary of specific sponsor(s) and program(s) that will be targeted for funding (include web links and targeted program areas if possible) using the data collected through this grant, and the anticipated time of submission
 - f. Budget and budget justification
 - g. Literature cited (does not count toward the page limit)

Proposal Evaluation: Proposals will be evaluated by a faculty panel using the criteria listed above.

Proposals not adhering to the specified format or not submitted by 5pm on Monday, October 3, 2016 will not be considered. The panel will make recommendations for funding to the Dean for Research, who will be responsible for final award decisions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email John Davis (jmdavis@ufl.edu) or Cassie Sexson (cjlema@ufl.edu) or call us at 352-392-1784.