

ORED Core Facilities Seed Grant Program

Call for Applications

Overview

The ORED Seed Grant Program will fund UC Merced researchers to support pilot studies with potential to generate preliminary data for extramural funding using Core Facility resources. The program will award funds to faculty, post-docs, and students (with faculty support), for use in ORED Core Facilities. The goals of this program are threefold.

- 1) To assist in preliminary data collection to strengthen funding proposals
- 2) To support student-driven research projects and student outcomes
- 3) Increase the utilization of Core Facility resources

The following Core Facilities are participating in the grant program:

- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Lab (NMR) – Dave Rice (drice2@ucmerced.edu)
- Imaging and Microscopy Facility (IMF) - Kennedy Nguyen (knguyen65@ucmerced.edu)
- Environmental Analysis Lab (EAL) - Liying Zhao (lzhao4@ucmerced.edu)
- Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry Cytometry Lab – David Gravano (dgravano@ucmerced.edu)
- Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry Cleanroom – Parveen Kumar (pkumar22@ucmerced.edu)
- Stable Isotope Ecosystem Lab (SEILO) - Robin Trayler (rtrayler@ucmerced.edu)

Please contact the individual Core Facility Directors with questions about analytical capabilities or research related inquiries. For questions about the administration of the ORED Seed Grant Program please contact Executive Director of Research Cores Anand Gadre (agadre@ucmerced.edu).

Eligibility

Academic personnel, including faculty, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, undergraduate students, and other academic researchers are eligible to apply. Application by trainees, with appropriate faculty support, is encouraged. Awards are limited to one award per year per applicant. Limit 3 awards per faculty member's research group.

Award Amounts

The number of awards and amounts will be at the discretion of each core facility's review panel. Awards will be in the range of \$500-\$1000. Please contact the facility director for details about anticipated award sizes or budgeting assistance. Awarded funds can only be used for recharge activities in the Core Facility, such as instrument time, sample preparation, staff support time, data analysis, etc. Recharge rates for individual facilities are available at the links below.

- EAL - <https://eal.ucmerced.edu/recharge-rate>
- IMF - <https://imf.ucmerced.edu/rates>
- SCIF Cytometry / Cleanroom - <https://scif.ucmerced.edu/rates>
- SIELO - <https://isotopes.ucmerced.edu/instruments-and-service/rates-1>
- NMR - <https://nmr.ucmerced.edu/rates>

Deadline

Proposals are due by June 15, 2022. Email the Proposal Documents directly to the core facility manager/technical director.

Funds Duration

Awarded funds will be available from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. All funds must be expended within that period.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit a short (1-2 pages including references, maximum 1 figure) PDF document detailing their proposed research. As part of this document, the following items should be included:

- Applicant name and title/position
- Core facility the funds would apply toward

- A narrative of the proposed research
- The scope and novelty of the research as well as projected outcomes (e.g., pilot data for extramural grant proposal, manuscripts, conference presentations).
- A description of funding need and an attestation that the proposed research is not already funded through external (e.g., NSF, DOD, NIH, DOE, etc) sources.
- Student applicants must also submit a letter of support from a faculty principal investigator (maximum one page) for the project.
- A short budget detailing the proposed costs. The only allowable costs are recharge activities (i.e., sample analyses, instrument time) available in the six participating Core Facilities.

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of the Core Facility director, a member of the Core Facility Advisory committee, and an outside Core Facility director. A rubric will be used to objectively score applications based on their **Funding Need**, **Scientific Impact**, **Innovation**, and **Student Involvement**.