**Date: April 10, 2019**

**To: Associate Deans of Research**

**From: Aaron Shonk, Senior Director, Foundation Relations**

**Oregon State University Foundation**

**Funding**

**Opportunity: Keck Foundation – Call for concept papers in Medical Research**

**Deadline: June 17, 2019 (11:59 p.m.)**

This is a call for concept papers for medical research projects. There will be no open call for proposals for science/engineering and undergraduate education this cycle. After consulting with the Keck Foundation’s director of programs, the Research Office is reevaluating scientific/engineering and undergraduate education submissions from the previous cycle for potential resubmission during this cycle. Hence, there will be no open call for concept papers on scientific/engineering and undergraduate education for this cycle.

Proposed projects in medical research should have the potential to meet the funding interests of the W.M. Keck Foundation. Please forward this call for concept papers to unit heads and any appropriate faculty who may be interested.

**Criteria**

The Keck Foundation seeks to support outstanding basic research that will have a significant impact in solving complex issues and problems. The foundation strives to fund research that is distinctive, novel, and even unique. Proposals should provide new and transformative prospective answers or approaches to underlying *burning basic research questions* in *fundamental science* and address issues that seem to be unsolvable, unattainable, or intractable. New discoveries in fundamental science could lead to new models, breakthroughs, or applications, potentially over a broad range of considerations

By *transformative*, the Keck Foundation seeks to challenge existing paradigms. A successful Keck proposal could lead to the creation of a new field of research, development of new instrumentation enabling observations not previously possible, or discovery of knowledge that challenges prevailing perspectives. Keck proposals are *high-risk[[1]](#footnote-1)* projects that push the edge of the field(s), present unconventional approaches to intransient problems, and/or challenge the prevailing paradigm.

The Keck Foundation looks for projects that would not qualify for federal funding from agencies like NSF and NIH due to the project’s *high-risk* nature. Projects that have received federal funding or that have applications pending for federal funding are much less likely to be funded.

Keck also looks for outstanding project personnel who are accomplished in terms of publications and journal citations and highly regarded in their area of research. Keck is open to funding faculty at either the junior or senior level.

**The Keck Foundation has advised Oregon State University that the maximum amount of funding we should seek on any research proposal is $1 million for a project up to three years.** Further application details can be found at <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research>.

**Timing**

If you are interested in submitting a concept paper for consideration, please carefully review the following information on the timeline for this funding cycle.

A concept paper submitted and accepted for this funding cycle would result in the following deadlines during 2019:

June 17 Deadline for concept papers submitted to the OSU Foundation

June 18 - 30 Research Office reviews concept papers and selects 1- 4 concepts for pre-application advice from Keck in each research area.

July 1 - Aug 15 Research Office has pre-application advice session with Keck and selects up to one proposal for medical research

Aug 15 - 28 Research Office notifies PIs of Keck feedback and whether PI can submit a Phase I application to Keck.

November 1 Phase I deadline

January 15 Keck notifies PI if s/he is invited to submit full proposal.

February 15 Phase II deadline

June Keck Board meeting for review and funding decision

Anyone wishing to be considered for this funding cycle at Keck must be available to meet the above deadlines. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Please keep in mind that Keck has two funding cycles per year. A concept paper on your research project could be considered for future funding cycles if the timeline for this funding cycle does not work for your schedule. **At the present time, the OSU Foundation and the Research Office plans to run a new Keck cycle every six months.**

**Other Considerations**

There is a series of important items you should consider if you decide to apply for a Keck research grant. They are as follows:

* ***Other potential funders.*** If you have proposed this or a related project to other funders, please provide that information as *an addendum* to your concept paper. (See below for instructions for doing so). This information should include funded, pending, and declined proposals.
* ***OSU Foundation Gift Fee and Its Exclusion from the Grant Budget.*** The Keck Foundation requires applicant organizations have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. As such, all applications will be submitted through the OSU Foundation. The OSU Foundation requires a 5 percent gift fee (i.e., 5% of the total). The OSU Foundation’s 5 percent gift fee is nonnegotiable based on the agreement between the university and the foundation. The gift fee cannot be paid with Keck funds. PIs should speak with their unit leader (e.g., school head, dean, center director) to determine how the gift fee will be covered. (**Note:** The gift fee is only paid if the PI receives the grant. No other fees are assessed during the application process or if a proposal is not funded.)
* ***Institutional Match.*** Keck looks for strong evidence of institutional support for a proposed research project. Keck favors projects that (1) present a matching amount of institutional resources and (2) have obtained or applied for support from external private funding sources. There is no prescribed amount for institutional match. Competitive projects, however, do include institutional match.
* ***Unallowable Expenses.*** There are two important budgetary items that Keck does not fund – (1) tuition support for graduate students and (2) indirect costs. Both of these items count toward institutional match when included in a proposal.

Keck asks that the PI of a proposal disclose if s/he is considering leaving the institution.

**Submissions**

The submission of a concept paper package involves *three separate files*, as follows:

1. A concept paper that describes your project (1 page max as a Word document or PDF)
2. The proposal addendum which includes related funded, pending, and declined proposals. If there are no related proposals, please simply indicate that in the document. (1 page max as a Word document or PDF)
3. Confirmation from the unit’s leader or units’ leaders (e.g., dean[s], school head[s], director[s], etc.) that the proposed research is a strategic priority. This confirmation entails financial commitment from the unit or units. See below for more information. (File format does not matter. For example, it can be a forwarded email submitted with the rest of the packet. No more than 1 page or file *per unit leader*)

**All three files must be submitted together at one time in one email.** Interested faculty should email their concept paper package to Elizabeth Ocampo, Foundation Relations Coordinator at the OSU Foundation by the deadline above. Elizabeth’s email address is Elizabeth.Ocampo@osufoundation.org. Any questions about these concept papers can be directed to Elizabeth at 541-737-7362. Details for each component appear below.

**1. Concept Paper.** Concept papers are limited to **one page using 12 point font with 1” margins**. Concept papers must include the following:

* State the proposal area along with your title at the top of the page (e.g., Medical Research: An examination of …)
* Overview of the research proposed, emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies.
* Description of the methodologies and key personnel. (**Note:** Keck emphasizes the need for clear goals and methodologies. Clearly articulated methodologies fare better in the internal review process.)
* Brief justification of the need for Keck support
* Estimated budget broken down by major areas of expenditures such as personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (This can be rough approximations at this stage.)
* If there’s room, you are free to add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution’s prominence in the field, etc.).
* If a reference is necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, ‘11). DO NOT USE (Jones et al., 2011).

**Do not include illustrations in the concept paper.** For general guidance, consider the ways in which your project aligns with Keck’s program priorities, which can be found at <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research/eligibility-and-priorities>. Also see “Criteria” on the first page of this memo to gain a sense of what Keck seeks.

**Word and PDF formats only.**

**2. Related Proposals Addendum.** In a second *file*, please provide a brief description of any previously declined or pending funding requests for your project. (Include funding source[s]; PIs; amount requested; relevant reviewer feedback related to declination, especially when related to “high-risk” as defined in this memo, etc.)

If there are no related proposals, please simply indicate that in this file. Also explain why you or your team have not sought other external funding.

**Word and PDF formats only.**

**3. Confirmation of Strategic Priority.** Interested faculty must have their college or unit’s administrative leader confirm that the proposed research is a strategic priority. More than one unit (e.g., the College of Science and the College of Engineering) can support a single project. By confirming the proposed research as a strategic priority, the administrative leader(s) agrees to the following:

* Paying the 5 percent gift fee required by the OSU Foundation from non-Keck funds
* Foregoing regular indirect costs (and incorporating them as cost-match in the proposal), and
* Covering graduate student tuition associated with the proposal (which can also be counted toward the cost-match)

These financial commitments may be shared between and among college units.

**Scanned letters or attached emails (in the submission email) are sufficient. The confirmation must be one page or less per unit leader and sent with the rest of the proposal.**

1. High-risk does not indicate a level of danger, but a level of uncertainty, as described by agencies like NSF (e.g., “the work may be less likely to lead to the proposed result.”) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)