

Second Call for New Proposals Basic and Translational Research Programs Requiring Wet Lab Space

April 2023

Construction and scientific programming are underway for the first of two new research buildings planned for the health sciences district. The Falling Leaves Foundation Medical Innovation Building (FLFMIB) has a target move-in date of summer 2025. The second building will follow as funds permit. Each building will be ~ 200,000 total sq ft with assignable space ~ 2/3 of the total. The new spaces present a rare opportunity to develop new programs composed of current COHS faculty and new recruits and to coalesce existing programs that are now scattered. **Anticipating both the FLFMIB and backfill spaces, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs (OVCHA) is seeking new proposals for outstanding, multidisciplinary, translational research programs that require wet lab space by September 1, 2023.**

The strategic approach is to house high-impact, high-potential programs in the new buildings and backfill space. The requirements for evaluation are listed below. Programs will exemplify the One Health interdisciplinary vision, the discovery, teaching, and healing mission, and be chosen because UCI can distinctively impact the field of study, thereby serving as magnets for faculty, staff, students and external support from federal agencies, private sector partners, and philanthropic donors.

To bring the buildings and programs online, and to renovate vacated existing spaces where needed, will require philanthropic dollars. Thus, research program proposals judged most positively will become fundraising priorities. Once selected, the proposal leaders will work with health advancement to write case statements and thereafter work with their deans and the OVCHA to solicit support from donors for construction, endowments, faculty hires and specialized research equipment.

Timeline

- **By April 24, 2023:** RFP distributed to faculty by COHS school deans.
- **By September 1, 2023:** Proposals due back to deans for feedback.
- **By October 15, 2023:** Proposals due to the OVCHA.
- **December 2023:** Selected proposals will be announced.

Priority topic areas for proposals in this round:

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| A. Cancer | E. Cardiology |
| B. Neuroscience | F. Gastrointestinal Biology & Nutrition |
| C. Precision Health | G. Other Interdisciplinary Programs |
| D. Drug Development | |

Proposal requirements

- Programs must require wet lab research space within next 2-5 years (indicate timeline)
- Programs must enunciate why UCI can distinctively impact the field of study.
- Programs must involve, or plan to involve, faculty across multiple academic units.
- Content: 6-pages, ½ page executive summary; tabular appendices accepted
 - Mission, opportunity, strengths, weaknesses, and threats
 - Leadership, primary and allied faculty, new faculty recruits
 - Required investments and space to launch (years 1-3)
 - Long term sustainability plan (5+ years) and external funding targets
 - Teaching plans (favorable if can support new NIH Training Grants and PPGs)

Selection: Proposals will be evaluated by faculty subject experts (chosen with input from the college senate), relevant center and institute leaders, equity advisors, and the COHS deans who will recommend proposals in three tiers to the VCHA. Based on urgency of programmatic space needs and optimal grouping of programs, meritorious programs may be approved for gift solicitation but reside in backfill space or the second research building.

Note: this call is for new proposals; applicants who submitted in response to the first call should address outstanding questions to Prof. Geoff Abbott (abbottg@hs.uci.edu).