

**Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
School of Medicine - Research Enhancement Program (REP)
BRIDGE GRANT APPLICATION**

General Information

The purpose of bridge grant support is to allow faculty members to maintain research activities during a temporary break in extramural support. Applications will be viewed in terms of their scientific merit and the probability of securing extramural funding from National agencies. Bridge grant support receives the highest priority among eligible Institutional Research Grant applications.

Several groups within the School of Medicine have their own bridge grant programs. The purpose of the SOM program is not to supplant these programs, but to provide funding for faculty who do not have these mechanisms available to them. Members affiliated with these units are expected to submit grant proposals first through these programs, rather than through the School of Medicine. Under no circumstances can a faculty member receive bridge grant funding for the same project from multiple sources.

Application Format (limit of 6 pages for sections 3-6)

1. Title Page.
 - a. Title of the research project
 - b. Applicant information (name, degree, academic rank, campus address, e-mail address, and telephone number)
 - c. A statement that the grant has been submitted for continued funding to a National agency, including the Institute and Grant number. In some cases, the grant renewal has not yet been submitted. If this is the case, this needs to be stated, including the anticipated submission date.
 - d. Signature of applicant
 - e. Signature of departmental Head, with dates.
2. Abstract
3. Specific Aims. Provide a concise statement of the research aims to be addressed during the interim period requested.
4. Significance of the proposed study, including a brief background.
5. A short description of the innovative aspects of the proposal.
6. Approach
7. Plans for Obtaining Extramural Support. Describe your plans to obtain renewal support for this sponsored program. Have applications been submitted to alternate agencies? **Include the Specific Aims that are planned for the extramural grant that will be submitted.**

8. Summary Statement from the most recent review by NIH, NSF, or other national agency review panel if available (Only national agency review panels will be considered; local or state affiliates will not.) This section should also include responses to the comments to the reviews. The purpose of the Bridge Grant mechanism is to provide support while a revised grant application is prepared for submission. In unusual cases, the applicant may submit a Research Enhancement Program application to facilitate the development of a closely-related, new proposal instead of a revised grant application.
9. Current Research Support. List all current research support by agency number, title, and total direct costs awarded. This section should include not only extramural support, but also any institutional support.
10. NIH-type biographical sketch.
11. Proposed Budget and Justification. REP funds are not intended, nor are the financial resources available, to totally replace extramural support which has been temporarily lost. Applicants should exercise appropriate restraint in their budget proposals. REP support is limited to personnel and supplies. Faculty salary support can be requested. The salary support requested for all faculty involved with the proposal cannot exceed \$25,000, including fringe benefits (i.e. \$17,606 salary plus \$7,394 fringe). Support for normal operations of central resources, facilities and administrative costs, construction, library, cost overruns, broad institutional planning activities, and travel will be excluded from consideration. The total period of support cannot exceed two years, and the total award cannot exceed \$150,000 over the two year period. Receipt of the second year of funding will require the submission of a 1-2 page non-competing renewal that provides evidence of productivity on the project, and evidence that a grant proposal has been submitted. This renewal application must include evidence of productivity, particularly a list of grants submitted, new summary statements, and a list of manuscripts published, in press, or submitted over the prior grant period. Unfunded extensions for an additional year will be provided upon request to the Associate Dean for Research (wbacke@lsuhsc.edu).
12. The signed original application (by both applicant and department head), and an electronic version of the proposal should be submitted to the Chair of the Institutional Grant Review Committee (pwinsa@lsuhsc.edu).

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE, INCLUDING ALL COMPONENTS LISTED ABOVE WITH ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES AND DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ON THE ORIGINAL AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. APPLICATIONS MUST BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY UPON NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING BY AN EXTRAMURAL AGENCY.

Evaluation of Grant Proposals

Grant proposals will be reviewed by the Institutional Grant Review Committee comprised of scientists who are members of the LSUHSC faculty. This grant review committee will operate in a manner similar to NIH study sections. In addition to the criteria used by NIH to evaluate grant proposals (Significance, Innovation, Investigators, and Approach), the committee members will also base their recommendations on the potential for the proposal eventually to be competitive for extramural support from national agencies. The committee will score proposals, and make a recommendation to the Dean based on its scientific merit and its likelihood of leading to a competitive extramural grant.