

**Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center  
School of Medicine –Research Enhancement Program (REP)  
CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM**

### **General Information**

The Clinical Research Grant Program was established to provide funding necessary for the development of clinical research projects into competitive applications that are supported by extramural agencies. The goal of this program is to provide institutional support for full-time clinical faculty on either the clinical- or tenure-track who have a research idea that needs to be better developed before it can be submitted for extramural support. Eligibility for this program requires the PI to be an M.D., although a Basic Science co-investigator may be included, and could significantly strengthen the proposal. Basic Science faculty, part-time clinical faculty and faculty who have active start-up packages for their research program (totaling more than \$200,000) are not eligible for this grant mechanism. Established investigators with extramural funding also are not eligible for these awards. Applications will be viewed in terms of potential for generating data that will lead to support from National funding agencies. The duration of these projects is for up to two years. An applicant can resubmit for an additional year of support; this re-application will be critically evaluated based not only on its scientific merit, but also on evidence or plans for submission of extramural grant support during this time. As part of this program, the PI must commit to submitting their research proposal for extramural funding to a nationally competitive agency (e.g. NIH, NSF, DOD, PCORI, etc.).

### **Application Format**

1. *Title Page* (please use the [Title Page](#) template).
  - a. Title of the research project
  - b. Applicant information (name, degree, academic rank, campus address, e-mail address, and telephone number)
  - c. Signature of applicant
  - d. Signature of departmental Head, with dates.
2. Abstract (limited to 250 words)
3. Specific Aims. Provide a concise description of the research aims to be addressed during the interim period requested.
4. *Research Strategy (limit of 6 pages)*. The goal of this section is to provide a detailed description of the rationale, experimental design, anticipated results and the problems and alternative approaches for the project.
  - a. Significance (recommend 1-2 pages) The goal of this section is to present the rationale for the proposed research and to summarize the literature supporting this line of investigation.
  - b. Innovation (recommend ½ page)

- c. Approach (recommended 3-4 pages)
  - i. Experimental design
  - ii. Anticipated results
  - iii. Problems and alternative approaches
5. *Proposed Budget* – Investigators will need to provide an overall itemized budget for the proposed project period. The budget should include personnel, equipment (if required), supplies, and other expenses (such as publication costs). Travel will only be considered as an integral part of data gathering. The total period of support cannot exceed one year, and the annual award cannot exceed \$75,000. Salary support for **clinical faculty** can be requested as release time from their clinical duties. The salary support requested for all clinical faculty involved with the proposal cannot exceed \$25,000, including fringe benefits (currently \$17,730 salary plus \$7,270 fringe – at 41%). No-cost extensions of up to six months will be considered on request to the Associate Dean for Research (currently Dr. Wayne Backes [wbacke@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:wbacke@lsuhsc.edu)). No expenditure of award funds can occur past the grant award period and the approved no-cost extension. The form page can be obtained at this link ([REP Grant budget page](#)).
6. *Budget Justification*. A budget justification must accompany each budget. It is important that the budget be appropriate for the scope of the study. In addition to the scientific merit of the proposal, both the duration and amount of funding requested will be reviewable by the study section.
7. *Plans for Obtaining Extramural Support* – Describe your plans to obtain renewal support for this proposal. Please include the targeted funding agencies and the anticipated time frame for submission of these extramural proposals. **Include the Specific Aims that are planned for the extramural grant that will be submitted.**
8. Current Research Support. List all current research support by agency number, title, and total direct costs awarded. This section should include a letter from the Department Head indicating that the time and effort to work on this proposal will be made available to the investigator.
- NIH-type biographical sketch. The form page can be obtained at this link ([REP Biosketch](#)).

The proposal must be submitted electronically as a **single** pdf. The title page must have all signatures to be advanced to the review stage. This proposal should be submitted to the Grant Evaluation Committee through SOM Research email ([SOMResearch@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:SOMResearch@lsuhsc.edu)).

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE, INCLUDING ALL COMPONENTS LISTED ABOVE AND ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES AND DOCUMENTS, AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. EXCEPTIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY UPON NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING BY AN EXTRAMURAL AGENCY.

### **Grant Deadlines**

There are three competitions per year. The deadlines are March 9<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, and November 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Evaluation of Grant Proposals**

Grant proposals will be reviewed by the Clinical Research Grants Evaluation Committee comprised of clinicians and clinical researchers 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 the proposals, and make a recommendation to the Dean based on its scientific merit and likelihood of leading to a competitive extramural grant.

### **Reporting**

*Final report* – The principal investigator is responsible for submitting a final report within 3 months after completion of the grant. This report should include a one to two page summary of the progress made on the proposal, a list of manuscripts and abstracts published during this time, and a list of the grant applications submitted and their funding status. This information should be sent electronically to the administrative coordinator of the REP Program ([SOMResearch@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:SOMResearch@lsuhsc.edu)), **clearly indicating in the subject line the program name (i.e. REP Bridge Grant), the name of the PI, and that this is a final report.** It is important for documentation of the success of this program and future requests for funding that we receive any information on grants that were funded with assistance from this program. Publications resulting, in whole or in part, from this award should appropriately acknowledge the support.

### **Termination**

An awardee should promptly notify the Associate Dean for Research of the School of Medicine ([wbacke@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:wbacke@lsuhsc.edu)) of any change in his or her status as a member of the full-time academic staff. The award will terminate on the date of the change to ineligible status. REP awards may not be transferred to other principal investigators or to other institutions. In the event that this project receives extramural support, the Associate

Dean for Research should be notified immediately, and the unexpended funds from the REP grant are to be returned.