

**Request for Applications  
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation  
Clinician-Scientist Collaborative Research Award**



**Letter of Intent Deadline: December 30, 2016**

### **Program Overview**

In order to better align the research interests of clinicians and scientists of Marshfield Clinic (MC), and to take advantage of synergies, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation (MCRF) is offering this funding opportunity to serve as a catalyst for joint collaborative work pairing a practicing MC clinician as project leader with an MCRF scientist. One major goal is to encourage substantial research that will be competitive for external funding opportunities in the future. A second goal is to encourage health services research that may assist the Marshfield Clinic Health System.

The Clinician - Scientist Collaborative Research Award (CSCRA) will provide support up to \$125,000 for a clinician and a scientist to work on research of common interest. Examples of potential research areas are listed below, but all areas of biomedical and health services research may be considered. Applicants are encouraged to contact Fritz Wenzel, MBA, FACMPE ([wenzel.frederick@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:wenzel.frederick@mcrf.mfldclin.edu), x 9-7480), Interim Executive Director of MCRF with questions.

- Examples of relevant research areas include:
  - Cancer research
  - Heart, lung and blood research
  - Emergency medicine and trauma research
  - Neurological research
  - Alcohol and drug abuse research
  - Diabetes, digestive and kidney disease (NIDDK) research
- A single award of \$125,000 maximum in direct costs (no indirect costs) for up to 24 months of support will be announced.
- Applicants may only submit a single application annually.

## Eligibility of Applicants

- Applicants must include a Marshfield Clinic clinician (MD, MD/PhD, DO, MBBS, DDS, DMD) and an MCRF scientist (PhD) applying jointly as Co-PIs.
- Clinician must serve as lead PI.
- Clinician must commit a minimum of 20% of their time to the project. A Letter of Support from the Department Chair indicating that this time will be allowed is required. Funding from the award is designated to cover clinician salary as a means to provide “protected time” for this project.
- Scientists may be of any rank and any tenure status.
- Applications are encouraged that fall within one of the areas listed in the Program Overview. Those interested in other areas should contact Mr. Wenzel.

## Application and Submission Information

Important dates:

Letter of Intent receipt: December 30, 2016

Invitation to submit full application: January 20, 2017

Application Receipt: April 3, 2017

Research Committee Review Period: April 4, 2017 to June 14, 2017

Award Announcement: June 21, 2017

Earliest Grant Start: September 1, 2017\*

*\*Earlier Grant Start Dates may be considered with approval of the clinician's department chair.*

## Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent is required. The letter should be no more than two pages in length (single-spaced, at least one-half inch margin, font size of 11 points or larger). The purpose of the Letter of Intent is to select those to invite for full applications. Applications submitted without an invitation will not be considered.

The Letter of Intent must include the following:

- Title of proposed project
- Names and Department/Center/Institute/Program/Laboratory of Scientist and Clinician investigators
- Brief description of proposed project including purpose and how the Scientist and Clinician will collaborate on the project, utilizing their complementary expertise (approximately 300 words)
- Confirmation of support from Department Chair/ Center/Program/Institute/ Laboratory Director
- Plans for obtaining external funding
- Recommendation of two Subject Matter Expert reviewers – one Marshfield Clinic clinician and one MCRF scientist not anticipated to be involved with the project.

The Letter of Intent should be sent to Patti Baer, Research Committee Administrator (1R3 or baer.patricia@mcrf.mfldclin.edu) and received no later than 5 pm on December 30, 2016.

## Application Characteristics

Submissions must follow the format described in the Research Committee - CSCRA Application Appendix 1. The application can be downloaded from the Forms Library via this link: <http://srdweb1/clinic/policies/forms/Research Committee - CSCRA Application.dot>.

Important items to note:

- Only those individuals invited following the Letter of Intent may submit a full application.
- For Clinicians, a Letter of Support is required from the Department Chair indicating that the stated budgeted time for the Clinician applicant is approved.
- Proposals must describe a collaboration plan between the clinician and scientist applicants.
- Applications must be submitted through MCRF Sponsored Programs.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek pre-review from a colleague not associated with the Research Committee for feedback prior to application submission.

## LOI and Application Review Information

Each LOI will be reviewed collaboratively by the RC Administrator, RC Chairperson and the MCRF Executive Director. The purpose of this review is to ascertain strength of the proposed collaboration, potential for future external funding, verification of department support for the Clinician, and verification of availability of internal funds specific to the area of interest.

Applications will be evaluated by two Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within MCHS who are selected based on the study's area of interest. Their review will be presented to the Research Committee for discussion. The Research Committee members will then score each proposal on a system modeled after the NIH 9-point scale.

A proposal must meet the minimum threshold of '5' for its Overall Impact Score to be considered for funding. The Overall Impact Score is influenced by the individual criteria scores, not compiled from an average of the individual criteria. Individual criteria include Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach, and Environment.

The review will be one-time only. Comments, critiques and suggestions may be returned to the authors, but proposals will not be eligible for re-submission until the next application submission period the following year. Particular areas of attention include:

- The feasibility of the research goal within the Marshfield Clinic Health System
- The significance and scientific merit of the problem to be addressed
- Whether the proposed research design and methodology is robust and appropriate
- Whether the proposed budget appears reasonable and justified
- The strength of the Clinician-Scientist collaboration and the areas of opportunity for enhancing the Clinician's research skills through collaboration with the staff scientist