Limited Opportunity: Sloan Foundation Call for Ideas

There are two internal deadlines for this competition: Interested candidates must communicate their intent to apply via email by April 10. Applications must be submitted via InfoReady by April 16.

The University has been invited to submit three proposals for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Call-For-Ideas. Because the Sloan Foundation expects to start one or more new grant-making programs within the next two years, the Foundation is looking for innovative ideas that will drive important advances in one or more areas of the physical and/or life
sciences. Biomedical & disease research will not be considered and the Foundation seeks ideas that advance basic science rather than ideas for commercial products or instruments.

The Foundation is asking researchers to sit down, dream about what might be possible for a program funded at up to $5-10M a year for about a decade, and then describe that vision. Here, ‘program’ refers to support for a community of investigators working on complementary aspects of a scientific problem.

**Proposed research must fall into one of the seven categories:**

1. Biology
2. Chemistry
3. Physics & Astronomy
4. Neuroscience & Cognition
5. Earth Systems Science (including Ocean Science)
6. Interdisciplinary & Other Science

**Click here for FAQs and further information about the specific areas of interest within these categories and special topics.**

Proposals to the Foundation must communicate a broad vision for a field and then describe a specific project to start pursuing some aspect of that vision. The Foundation will provide $500K-$1M of annual support for up to three years. While submissions should be organized through a single lead PI, the Foundation encourages researchers to self-organize into proposal submission teams whose broader scope of expertise may strengthen a proposal.

**Instrumentation**
High End Instrumentation Grant (HEI), Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG), and Shared Instrumentation for Animal Research Grant (SIFAR)
Deadline: April 6, 2020
The Foundation is open to funding a high-risk/high-reward idea without preliminary data but is conceptually sound and potentially transformative. Researchers should refrain from proposing work in already well-funded areas unless they can convincingly argue that the important research they propose is not likely to be supported by other funding sources.

**Eligibility:** PI Status

**To Apply:**

**Step 1: Email intent to apply by April 10:**

- Candidates must email their intent to apply to Jerica Banks at jerica@uchicago.edu no later than March 18.
- Title the message “Intent to Apply: Sloan Call-For-Ideas,” and include your project title, collaborators, and keywords. This information will be used to select relevant internal review committee members.

**Step 2: Interested candidates must submit the following materials via InfoReady by April 16:**

- 1/2 page lay abstract
- 3-page summary CV for the lead PI only
- 1700-word proposal describing both your broad vision and a specific project
- A list of collaborators for your specific project only. Indicate whether they are confirmed or proposed
- A list of current and pending funding for the lead PI

*For detailed information about each required internal application component, log in to InfoReady with your UChicago CNET ID and click the “Apply” button.*
Submission to the Sloan Foundation
Selected candidates must be prepared to submit the following additional materials to the Foundation no later than May 13, 2020:

- A nonbinding list of 5-10 scientists who are not part of the proposal team who are currently engaged in research relevant to the broad vision you propose for an area of science
- Five publications from the last five years that are the most important papers covering the science you describe in your broad vision
- Three of the most important research methods/tools relevant to the broad vision you propose for an area of science
- Any reports or publications that reflect research community efforts to make a case for supporting the research described by your broad vision narrative.

For questions about this funding opportunity, contact Jerica Banks, Assistant Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations via email at jerica@uchicago.edu.

Looking for specific funding opportunities in your field?

NIH: Click here to sign up for weekly funding opportunities and notices
NSF: Click here to get funding opportunity updates via email

Pivot Database
Contains more than $44 billion in funding opportunities from federal, non-federal, foundation, corporate, and other private sponsors across a wide variety of disciplines. Click here to create an account to build customized search queries for your specific research interests.

Internal and Seed Funding
• Faculty Affairs maintains a list of internal funding opportunities that may be of interest to BSD Faculty.
• The InfoReady Funding Portal provides a list of seed grants and other opportunities

Research Development Support
Provides faculty and other researchers with resources and expertise to assist in preparing and submitting successful proposals. Click here for more information.

Foundation Funding
If you would like assistance working with foundations, please contact Bobbi Nease, Senior Associate Director, Foundation Relations, UChicago Medicine & Biological Sciences Development: bnease@mbsd.uchicago.edu

Questions or comments may be sent to our mailing address at:
  fundingopps@bsd.uchicago.edu

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