Wine Auction Funds for Cardiovascular Research Pilot Grants

Introduction
The Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) now announces a competition for grants to fund pilot research projects. Funding for this award is made possible by generous donations to the 2013 Wine Auction, which raised over $1 M for cardiovascular research.

Competitive Funding for Cardiovascular Research Pilot Projects:
The Aab CVRI Cardiovascular Research Pilot Grants will support high impact research that creates novel basic and translational knowledge in the Cardiovascular Research Strategic Plan of the University of Rochester Medical Center. We will hold a series of competitions to fund pilot projects.

• Areas of Research: Funds will be used to support research in the areas of the Cardiovascular Research Strategic Plan. In order of priority, these research areas include:
  1. Heart Failure
  2. Vascular Inflammation and Fibrosis
  3. Thrombosis

• Eligibility: This competition is open to all tenure track faculty of the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC).

Application Process for Cardiovascular Research Pilot Projects:

• Multidisciplinary Projects: Applications must include multiple principal investigators, including one URMC investigator in the Aab CVRI and at least one URMC investigator outside of the Aab CVRI. Inter-disciplinary projects which include a basic and a clinical component are encouraged.

• Abstracts: Multiple principal investigator teams will submit a one page abstract. Our Review Committee will review all abstracts and request final applications from a few teams.

• Full Proposal: Selected teams will then submit a six page application that includes: 1 page Abstract, 1 page Background, 1 page Preliminary Data, 1 page Specific Aims, 1 page References, 1 page Budget. Preliminary data are not required for high risk projects; proposals without preliminary data will be funded for 1 year maximum. A set of clearly specified Milestones (deliverables, timelines) should also be included within the Specific Aims page. Each principal investigator must submit an NIH Biosketch that lists only publications with the PI as last author and only other support with the PI as the grant PI.

• Budgets: All budgets are $50,000 per year for two years. The second year of funding is conditional on achieving 1st year milestones. The budgets are to be used for supplies, equipment, and personnel (excluding the PI), but not for indirect costs.
**Review Process for Cardiovascular Research Pilot Projects:**

- **Review Committee:** The Pilot Grant Review Committee will review all abstracts and final applications. The Review Committee will be comprised of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Aab CVRI Director.

- **Evaluation Criteria:** Applications will be judged on the following criteria:
  - **Novelty:** applications should focus on new genes, new proteins, new cells, new pathways, new drugs, or new techniques
  - **Significance:** both basic significance and clinical significance must be demonstrated
  - **Investigator:** productivity will be assessed, focusing on last author publications and grants as PI
  - **Approach:** the approach can include basic aims, or basic and clinical aims
  - **Research scope:** the research theme must fit within the Cardiovascular Research Strategic Plan. In order of priority, these research areas include: (1) Heart Failure, (2) Vascular Inflammation and Fibrosis, (3) Thrombosis.
  - **Milestones:** each application must propose milestones which will be accomplished at the end of the first year and second year; grants will be evaluated in part on the proposal of realistic milestones. Potential milestones include: completion of specific aims, publications, submissions of new grant applications.

**Progress Reports for Cardiovascular Research Pilot Projects:**

- **Progress Reports:** Progress report sessions will be held every 6 months. All funded principal investigators are required to attend these sessions. Each team will present their project progress in a 15 minute presentation. The Pilot Grant Review Committee will be present and will evaluate progress. After the first year of research support, all projects that achieve their 1st year milestones will receive their second year of research support. All projects that do not achieve their 1st year milestones will not receive additional funding. All investigators who applied for funding but did not receive funding are required to attend these meetings if they wish to apply for future funding.

- **Time Line:** We anticipate 3 rounds of competition, funding approximately 2 new grants each year for 3 years. Abstracts are due May 1, full proposals on June 1, and funding begins July 1 of each year. Abstracts for Round 1 are due May 1, 2014, and full proposals for Round 1 are due June 1, 2014. Abstracts for Round 2 are due May 1, 2015, and full proposals for Round 2 are due June 1, 2015. Abstracts for Round 3 are due May 1, 2016, and full proposals for Round 3 are due June 1, 2016.

- **Report to Donors:** All funded teams must write a 1 page annual report to be sent to the donors who created the Cardiovascular Research Pilot Grant project.

**Questions about Cardiovascular Research Pilot Projects:**

- **Contacts:** Please address all questions to Ms. Jackie Stevens at the following email address: Jackie_Stevens@urmc.rochester.edu

- **Further Information:** This funding opportunity is described on the internet at: http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/cvri/FundingOpportunities.cfm

- **Frequently Asked Questions:** Please see the following link for frequently asked questions: Frequently Asked Questions about Cardiovascular Research Pilot Projects