

**MICHR ACCELERATING SYNERGY AWARD**

*Launched in partnership with the Medical School Office of Research and the Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation*

**PURPOSE:** The Accelerating Synergy Award is designed to enable investigative teams to address significant, complex, and multifaceted research problems using an interdisciplinary approach. The composition of the integrative research team should facilitate pursuit of a unified scientific goal that could not be achieved through individual efforts. We expect that the results obtained from this funding will be used to develop a compelling and competitive external large-scale grant (eg, NIH U- or P-series). Being competitive for large-scale grants requires significant advanced planning, a well-defined and central research theme, strong preliminary data, and a history of partnership among collaborating investigators. The goal of this award is to position research teams for future large-scale grant success.

**ACCELERATING SYNERGY AWARD MECHANISMS:** In collaboration with our partners, we are pleased to offer three Accelerating Synergy Award mechanisms:

- **Basic Research** (Co-sponsored by the Medical School Office of Research)
- **Translational Research**
- **Health Services Research** (Co-sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation)

**FUNDING:** Under any of the three mechanisms, faculty will need to select the appropriate **planning stage** – 1) Positioning or 2) Grant Development – that aligns with project needs and anticipated time to external large-scale grant submission. Each award will provide \$100,000 in funding for one year. All funds must be spent in this timeframe and will not be eligible for a no-cost extension. If needed, *Positioning* awardees will be eligible to apply for *Grant Development* funds during future funding cycles. Use the table below to identify the appropriate planning stage for your proposal.

Planning Stage	Time to External Submission	Goals of Mechanism	Use of Funds
<b>Positioning</b>	Applicants should be approximately <b>two years</b> from submitting an external large-scale grant	To provide teams with funds to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain/finalize preliminary data</li> <li>• Continue publishing with collaborators, thereby solidifying a strong history of partnership</li> </ul>	Funds should primarily be allocated to the conduct of research
<b>Grant Development</b>	Applicants should be approximately <b>one year</b> from submitting an external large-scale grant	To provide teams with funds to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support personnel and resources to develop and submit an external large-scale grant</li> <li>• analyze or publish final preliminary data</li> </ul>	Funds should primarily be allocated to grant development (eg, effort, resources), with a smaller amount supporting research

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

**All mechanisms:** Faculty members with primary appointments at the University of Michigan (U-M) are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators (PIs). Typically, PIs will be at least mid-career faculty who have a history of funding and publication success in the field of the proposed research. At minimum, three faculty members must be represented on the proposal, as Co-PIs or Co-Investigators, from at least two Schools/Colleges and three departments at U-M. A Co-PI model is strongly recommended to set the foundation for the external large-scale grant. It is recommended that there be previous collaboration among at least some of Co-PIs and/or Co-Is. Partnerships with industry or community are encouraged. Applicants not awarded in the previous round of Accelerating Synergy funding are welcome to resubmit.

**Mechanism-specific requirements:**

Mechanism	Target Audience	Eligibility Requirements
<b>Basic Research</b>	Faculty pursuing basic biomedical science research	At least one PI must have a primary appointment in the Medical School
<b>Translational Research</b>	Faculty pursuing any type of research along the translational spectrum (T1-T4)	Any faculty member at U-M may serve as PI
<b>Health Services Research</b>	Faculty pursuing research aimed at improving the quality, safety, accessibility, equity and affordability of health care services	At least one PI must be a member of the Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation

***The mechanism you select for your application will have no impact on the review process or funding decisions. MICHR will reassign your application to the appropriate mechanism as needed.***

**RESTRICTIONS:**

**All mechanisms:** Support of new, individual research projects (eg, R01-type efforts) will not be considered for the Accelerating Synergy Award. Applicants are limited to one submission per funding cycle.

**Translational Research and Health Services Research mechanisms:** The NIH-National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), which funds MICHR, will not provide prior approval for pilot grants that propose research conducted outside of the United States. In addition, NCATS only permits funding of clinical trials through the end of Phase IIB, with the exception of certain activities involving treatment of a rare disease or condition. Per NCATS, Phase II clinical trials are designed to test drugs for efficacy (or effectiveness) and side effects in a limited number of patients. Phase IIA trials provide data for exposure-response in patients, while Phase IIB trials provide data for dose-ranging in patients.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS & TIMELINE:** There are two phases to the application and review process:

- Phase 1: Interested individuals are invited to submit a pre-application due **October 15, 2018 at 5 pm**.
  - Pre-application guidelines and submission portal are available through [Competition Space](#). Please refer to the *MICHR Accelerating Synergy* competition.
- Phase 2: Competitive Phase 1 applicants will be invited to:
  - Submit a five-page proposal (complete guidelines and deadline to follow).
  - Meet with reviewers for a brief presentation and Q&A.

**REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS:** Review criteria are similar to NIH, with applications being scored on 1) significance, 2) investigator and team, 3) innovation, 4) approach, 5) environment and 6) overall impact. Reviewers will also consider the likelihood of the research team to develop a competitive external large-scale grant based on alignment of research goals with the external funding opportunity announcement of interest (see pre-application guidelines) and assessment of the research career(s) of the PI and/or Co-PIs and collaborative team history.

**PHASE 2 AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES:** MICHR will provide awardees with a tailored plan of support that extends beyond financial commitment. Awardees will be expected to use the services outlined in their plans and to provide progress updates as requested. Fundable applications that propose human subjects or vertebrate animal research must proceed to a second level of review by NIH-NCATS; their approval must be obtained before funds are released. From the time you are notified of your fundable score by MICHR, you will have two weeks to submit your protocol to the IRB or IACUC and three months to obtain approval. If approval is not obtained within this timeframe, MICHR reserves the right to deny funding.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For questions about this grant mechanism, contact the [MICHR Pilot Grant Program](#).

For assistance developing your project, request a consultation with the [MICHR Research Development Core](#).

## **MICHR ACCELERATING SYNERGY PRE-APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Due Date: **October 15, 2018 at 5 pm**

Pre-applications will be submitted through [Competition Space](#) and must adhere strictly to the format below. Choose the pre-application format that aligns with your planning stage (i.e., Positioning or Grant Development). Following an administrative and/or scientific review, applicants deemed the most competitive will be invited to submit a full proposal; guidelines and deadline will be provided at time of notification. To proceed to review, the pre-application must be complete, addressing all items outlined below, and adhere to page limitations.

### **Positioning Planning Stage Pre-Application Format:**

1. Face Page: Complete using the template in Competition Space.
2. Abstract (cannot exceed two pages, Arial 11, ½ inch margins): Include the following:
  - a) Describe your broad research vision for an external large-scale grant, emphasizing the importance of the problem.
  - b) Identify all gap(s) you need to fill to be competitive for an external large-scale grant.

- c) Describe which gaps will be filled by the Accelerating Synergy Award. Include:
    - Hypothesis and specific aims
    - Brief research plan, including expected outcomes and impact
    - Timeline with milestones of success
  - d) Explain advantages of team composition, highlighting any history of partnership among team members.
  - e) Identify the specific external large-scale grant funding opportunity announcement that you will apply for in the next two years.
  - f) If a resubmission, briefly explain how you have addressed reviewer concerns.
3. References: Cannot exceed one page.
4. Biographical Sketches: Include a current [NIH-style biosketch](#) for each investigator with the role of Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, or Co-Investigator.

**Grant Development Planning Stage Pre-Application Format:**

1. Face Page: Complete using the template in Competition Space.
2. Abstract (cannot exceed two pages, Arial 11, ½ inch margins): Include the following:
  - a) Describe your broad research vision for the external large-scale grant, including the overall hypothesis and specific aims.
  - b) As applicable, highlight proposed projects/cores that will support pursuit of your overall goals.
  - c) Identify all gaps you need to fill to be competitive for an external large-scale grant.
  - d) Describe which gaps will be filled by the Accelerating Synergy Award. Include:
    - Description of personnel and/or resource support
    - As applicable, plans for final data analysis and publishing
    - Timeline with milestones of success
  - e) Explain advantages of team composition, highlighting any history of partnership among team members.
  - f) Identify the specific external large-scale grant funding opportunity announcement that you will apply for in the next year.
  - g) If a resubmission, briefly explain how you have addressed reviewer concerns.
3. References: Cannot exceed one page.
4. Biographical Sketches: Include a current [NIH-style biosketch](#) for each investigator with the role of Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, or Co-Investigator.