THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: **W.M. Keck Foundation Grant Opportunity – Virtual Lightning Pitch and Networking Event**

Date: October 7, 2021

Do you have an idea for how your research could change the world? Is it high-risk/high-reward? Is it so risky that no government agency would fund it? If so, you should apply for a Keck Foundation grant opportunity!

The Opportunity

Focus area: Science and Engineering projects for Main Campus researchers*

Award: $1 million over 3 years, payable in December 2022

UNM is seeking cutting-edge science and engineering research projects to consider for presentation to the W.M. Keck Foundation, so we're conducting an internal idea development and limited competition process to provide opportunities for new collaborations and feedback, and then to identify and select competitive ideas.

Deadline to submit presentations: October 20, 2021

About the Keck Foundation Awards (http://wmkeck.org/)

The Keck Foundation Research Program supports projects in science, engineering and medical research that are distinctive and novel, question the prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory in their field. **The Keck Foundation is seeking proposals that explain how a project is going to *significantly change the world.***

The Keck Foundation supports pioneering discoveries **that fall outside the mission of NIH, NSF and other public funding agencies**. **Keck will only fund proposals that are truly outside the scope of traditional funding agencies.**

Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for projects in research that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies
- Are innovative, distinctive and interdisciplinary

**Note: While Science and Engineering grants may incorporate medical research concepts, the opportunity to apply for a Science and Engineering program area grant is available only to Main Campus researchers.*

- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Does not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success

Both senior and early career investigators are encouraged to apply. Team approaches, including interdisciplinary teams, are encouraged.

The Process

Bring your idea to the Keck Foundation Lightning Pitch and Networking Event!

- Summarize the information below in a 3 to 5-minute Zoom presentation (slide template is found on the right side of the screen in InfoReady Review **https://unm.infoready4.com/**) to a panel of interested attendees, prospective collaborators, research development professionals and Keck experts (program liaisons/past awardees). Note: The University community will be invited to this event. The 5-minute time limit will be strictly enforced.
- Your presentation should be created for an educated, lay audience who may not be experts in your field and should focus on the potential impacts of your project. Proposal ideas may be in various stages of development. After all of the lightning pitches, attendees may ask questions, offer feedback or share ideas to create something truly innovative! With feedback from this networking event, individuals or teams are encouraged to develop one-page concept papers for a limited competition. A maximum of four concept papers will be selected to present to the Keck Foundation for feedback in January 2022.
- **Title Slide**
    - Include your project title, name, and school, department and/or center.
- **Slide 1: The Grand Idea**
    - What is your cool idea? Present a brief overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies for Research Program concepts. **The Keck Foundation funds basic, exploratory science, and is looking for transformational, not incremental, research.** If your concept does not have the potential to transform your field of research, it is unlikely to be competitive.
- **Slide 2: Why Keck?**
    - Explain why your project is important
    - Why Keck should fund it (not fundable by public agencies)
    - Impact – how your project will change the world
- **Slide 3: The Dream Team**

- Describe who is already involved, including their areas of expertise. Consider what additional collaborations might strengthen your project.

You do not have to propose a detailed budget at this time, but bear in mind that:

- PI salary cannot exceed more than 10% of annual
- Keck will not pay any F&A but these costs can be imputed as cost share
- Keck will not pay tuition
- Keck will not pay any costs for government/national laboratory collaborator salaries

Schedule: Limited Competition Multi-step process

1. Submit your presentation slides via UNM's InfoReady Review portal **https://unm.infoready4.com/** no later than noon on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Note: A committee will review your submission and presenters will be selected based on the number of presentation slots available and fit with Keck's program. You will receive confirmation of selection by October 22, 2021. You will be expected to attend the Virtual Pitch Presentations at 1:30pm to 3:00pm on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 to share your pitch.
2. Participate in the limited competition process by submitting your 1-page concept paper through InfoReady Review by December 1, 2021. *Only presenters and their collaborators who participated in step one will be eligible to submit.*
3. The Limited Competitions Review Committee will make selections by December 10, 2021 and will notify all competitors.

- If selected, be prepared to work with Betsy Till at the UNM Foundation to finalize your one-page concept paper for submission to the Keck Foundation by January 12, 2022.

Example Awards

https://sse.tulane.edu/content/w-m-keck-foundation-grant-tulane-could-spark-%E2%80%9Cbreakthrough%E2%80%9D-optical-wireless-technologies

https://www.minesnewsroom.com/news/wm-keck-foundation-grants-mines-du-physicists-1m-quantum-computing-research

https://www.newswise.com/articles/cwru-scientist-s-team-receives-1-2-million-w-m-keck-foundation-research-grant-to-determine-how-ecological-factors-affect-evolution

Questions?

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact UNM's Faculty Research Development Office at frdo@unm.edu.

You may also contact Betsy Till, Sr. Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the UNM Foundation at (505) 313-7678 or betsy.till@unmfund.org with any questions about the Keck Foundation.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.