

Competition Details

Blue Sky Award

Key Dates

Internal Submission Deadline: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Details

Administrator(s): Wanda Pierce (Owner)
Andie Edwards
Carla Stipe

Category: Open Funding Opportunities

Cycle: 2022-2023

Discipline Subject/Area: Grand Idea-Innovative

Total Funding: \$100,000

Description

Key Dates

- **Feb 15, 2023 - MUSC Internal Deadline for Applications by 5:00 p.m.**
- Feb 22, 2023 - Chalk Talk Deadline
- Feb 28, 2023 - Application Review Period Begins
- Apr 24-28, 2023 - BSA Announcement During Innovation Week
- May 1, 2023 - Anticipated Funding Start Date

Program Description

The MUSC Office of the Vice President for Research in partnership with the Office of Innovation invites applications for promising high-risk research that tackles big problems in medicine and science. The BSA program will provide support for highly creative faculty with a track record of outstanding success with the opportunity to test the feasibility of their "grand idea" and prepare that idea for an application for extramural funding. The goal is to foster high-payoff work that promises to be transformational but for which other funding sources are limited.

Successful proposals should include:

- A collaborative team of investigators using innovative thinking and creative processes to address complex problems with the potential for high-impact findings is key to the BSA mission.
- Basic, translational, and/or clinical researchers at any faculty rank.
- Incorporation of Artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning in the research plan is encouraged.
- Individuals from under-represented groups are highly encouraged to apply.
- Purposeful collaboration with other researchers and teams designed to bring an interdisciplinary approach to solving problems.

Eligibility & Budget Information

- Each application should include at least two MUSC Principal Investigators (PIs), from different colleges (Dental Medicine, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing & Pharmacy), to work at the interface of disciplines.
- BSA research teams are restricted from holding more than one active research grant from the Office of the Vice President at a time.

- BSAs will provide up to \$100,000 per year for up to two years to support the development of innovative, interdisciplinary, and impactful projects.
- Allowable expenses include laboratory supplies, animal costs, patient recruitment costs, and support of pre/postdoctoral students, technicians, or research assistants. Non-MUSC faculty can participate in the research as a consultant.
- **Unallowable** expenses include 1) faculty salaries & fringe, 2) facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, and 3) subcontracts/subawards.
- Include a department/college commitment letter for each PI's effort for each MUSC faculty member.

Chalk Talks

Applicants should prepare a 10-minute presentation, record it with Teams, and email the file to Wanda Pierce at piercewh@musc.edu. The applicant's Chalk Talk should 1) explain how the application meets the criteria for the BSA, 2) describe what makes the application innovative, 3) define the roles of each PI, including which PI is responsible for each of the proposal's aims and why, and 4) explain the likely source(s) of follow-on funding and to which funding mechanism(s) the team plans to apply to pending a successful outcome. Applicants may find a [video tutorial here](#).

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Award & Review Information

- Up to two applications will be awarded depending upon the research excellence proposed. A second year of full or partial funding of the BSA may be possible but not guaranteed and will depend upon significant progress during the initial funding period, and justification for how a second year of funding will leverage success from the prior year and significantly increase the quality of the extramural grant application.
- Submission of a large Multi-PI (MPI) federal grant application (e.g., P, U or MPI R01) is required prior to the end of year two.
- Applications that are complete and responsive to this announcement will be evaluated for merit by the Advisory Review Panel (ARP).

MUSC Request for Application (RFA) Process

Interested investigators should submit their applications through the [MUSC InfoReady Review](#) system. This site streamlines the management of applications, internal review, and sharing of outcomes. To submit, click the provided link, enter your MUSC NetID, and fill out the requested information.

1. **Cover Letter.** Descriptive title of the proposed research; names of PIs and research team members with academic titles, primary departments, proposed roles on the project, and contact information.
2. **Project Summary.** The Project Summary should 1) explain the problem, 2) provide a clear and concise description of the project goals, 3) describe the unique or distinctive aspects of the project that qualify it as truly innovative, and 4) define the roles of each PI, including which PI is responsible for each of the proposal's aims and why. (1-page)
3. **Research Plan (no more than 4 pages).** The Research Plan should include a Specific Aims page (1-page) and a **Research Strategy** that follows the NIH format to include significance, innovation, and approach. (3-page Max)
4. **Budget and Justification.** Funds may be used for any purpose to support the proposed research.
 - a. Refer to the Budget Information section for additional details.
 - b. Effort for each MUSC faculty member must be articulated with a written commitment of departmental support for that effort. A joint letter from the PIs' Department Chairs is preferred.
 - c. Required in the PHS 398 Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period listed at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf>
5. **Biosketch.** Include compliant NIH Biosketch (5-page maximum) for each team member.
6. **Letter of Support.** From an investigator outside of MUSC who can speak to the potential impact of the project proposed and to the track record of the PIs and their recognition within the field.

Please combine items 1-6 into a single pdf file and upload into the [MUSC InfoReady Review](#) system. Please allow enough time to log into the system and load the documents by the deadline.

Learn More

To learn more about the BSA program please contact Wanda Pierce (piercewh@musc.edu) or visit the BSA Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) webpage.

BSA Checklist

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposal Section	Proposal Description	Page Limits
	Cover Letter	Descriptive title of the proposed research; Names of PIs and research team members with academic titles, primary departments, proposed roles on the project, and contact information.	1-page
	Project Summary	The Project Summary should 1) explain the problem, 2) provide a clear and concise description of the project goals, 3) describe the unique or distinctive aspects of the project that qualify it as truly innovative, and 4) define the roles of each PI, including which PI is responsible for each of the proposal's aims and why.	1-page
	Research Plan (no more than 4 pages)	Specific Aims page.	1-page
		Research Strategy includes the significance, innovation, and approach.	3-pages
	Budget	Effort for each MUSC PI faculty member must be articulated with a written commitment of departmental support for that effort. A joint letter from the PIs' Department Chairs is preferred.	
	Biosketch	NIH Biosketch for each team member.	5-page MAX
	Letter of Support	From an investigator outside of MUSC who can speak to the potential impact of the project proposed and to the track record of the PIs and their recognition within the field.	Up to 2 pages