

2006 Presidential Research Initiative (PRI) grant program

Request for Proposals

Purpose:

The purpose of this program is to promote an interdisciplinary research environment at Case by seeding new research projects involving investigators preferably from two or more schools or colleges within the university. PRI applications for interdisciplinary research involving two departments within the same school or college will be considered; however, a strong case needs to be made that the proposed project is truly interdisciplinary. It is expected that this research will lead to extramural applications and, eventually, extramural support.

Funding:

The PRI grant program is supported with funds from the Provost's Office through a Research Challenge grant from the Ohio Board of Regents and proceeds received by the Technology Transfer Office from the commercialization of Case intellectual property. Proposals may request up to \$80,000 for up to two years of support, i.e., the maximum award is \$80,000, which can be spent over a two year period.

Application Procedures:

Applications may only be submitted by faculty members and preferably must include co-principal investigators from different schools or colleges (e.g., School of Medicine and School of Engineering). If the co-principal investigators are from the same school or college, they must be from different departments and must make a strong case in the application that the research is indeed interdisciplinary.

The proposal must clearly present a project where there is joint intellectual contribution by the co-principal investigators. A project where one of the co-principal investigators is simply providing access to data, specimens or patients is not acceptable. More than one proposal per faculty member acting as a co-principal investigator may be submitted. However, a faculty member is only eligible to receive one PRI award as a co-principal investigator. Those faculty members who currently have an active PRI award are not eligible to submit an application unless the current award will expire by July 1, 2006.

Proposals from new investigators are encouraged. For the purposes of this RFP, a new investigator is defined as a faculty member who is not tenured and who has not been a faculty member at Case or any other institution for more than six years in aggregate. The review panel will be asked to assign extra weight to these proposals such that, given sufficient quantity and merit, at least half of the available PRI funds will be awarded to proposals involving new investigators.

Proposals that represent a new collaboration are also encouraged. A new collaboration is one where the co-principal investigators have never worked together on a research project before. Proposals that simply build on existing collaborations are discouraged unless the proposed project represents a new direction for this collaboration. In this case, the proposal should clearly describe (see below) the new direction proposed by the existing collaboration.

The proposal should not exceed eight pages and should include the following:

1. Specific Aims (one page): Describe the specific project objectives.
2. Rationale (one-two pages): Describe why the project is important, how the proposed effort is truly interdisciplinary, how it relates to existing research, if applicable, and

- whether it is a new collaboration or one that builds on an existing collaboration, but in a new direction.
3. Methods (one-two pages): Describe the experimental design, unit of observation, measures, and analysis plan.
 4. Future plans (one page): Describe how the project fits into a program of research at Case, why the proposed project should be funded by the PRI program and not some other source of funding, and what the next steps will be upon completion of the project.
 5. Other support (one-two pages): List current and pending support and describe any overlap with the proposed research.

In addition, each application should include an itemized budget, biographical sketches (one-two pages) for the co-principal investigators that includes, as applicable, a statement about whether one or more of the co-principal investigators qualifies as a new investigator, and a completed University Review Form (<http://addison.ra.cwru.edu/ospa/forms/URFv4-22-05.pdf>) signed by the co-principal investigators and the respective department chairpersons and school/college administrators.

The budget can include equipment, but it can not exceed 25% of the overall budget. Given the modest size of the award, salary support for faculty members of the research team is discouraged, but will be considered if adequately justified. If the project requires regulatory approval (e.g., IRB, IACUC, Biosafety), the requisite protocols must be submitted to and approved by the relevant internal committees before funding can begin.

Review and Award:

Each proposal will be reviewed by a panel composed of faculty members selected by the Provost's Office whose members have the requisite research background and experience to assess the merits of the applications received. A primary and a secondary reviewer will be assigned to each proposal.

Specific merit review criteria available from the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration will guide this review. It is expected that 10 awards will be made. Those individuals who receive an award will be required to submit a final report at the completion of the project describing the results and the efforts to publish and seek extramural support. If this report is not received, the co-principal investigators will not be eligible to apply for future PRI support.

Timeline:

Submission: The deadline for submitting proposals is January 13, 2006. An electronic version of the proposal should be e-mailed **as a single electronic file** to Eric Cottington at emc14@case.edu. A hard copy of the proposal with the completed University Review Form should also be sent to the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration, Sears Library Building, Location Code 7015.

Review: All applications will be reviewed by the end of March 2006

Awards: Awards will be announced at Research ShowCASE on April 6, 2006 with funding to start July 1, 2006.