



OFFICE OF RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES

Research Grants Program Office  
University of California, Office of the President  
300 Lakeside Drive, Suite 600  
Oakland, CA 94612

September 6, 2013

Dear Vice Chancellors for Research and UC Research Community:

As many of you know, the UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives ([MRPI](#)) held a competition in 2009, and we awarded grants for up to 5 years totaling over \$70 million for multicampus initiatives involving at least three campuses. We are very pleased with the accomplishments of these projects, which were aimed at not only advancing outstanding research, but also strengthening the UC research enterprise.

We are pleased to announce the timeline for a new competition cycle. Based on the staggered start of the first round awards, a second round competition had been tentatively planned for Fall 2013. However, in the intervening years since 2009, UC has faced dramatic budget cuts and a realignment of funding structures between the Office of the President and the 10 campuses. In addition, the University continues to strive to improve its strategic budget, research and academic planning, and anticipates the imminent arrival of a new President.

As a result, and to take advantage of the opportunities presented by these changes, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, Research Grants Program Office, has adjusted the schedule and timing of the second round Request for Proposals (RFP). This Fall, our office will plan the new application and competition cycle, including seeking input and engagement from UC stakeholders at the Office of the President and throughout the system. We anticipate revising and finalizing the Call in the winter months and releasing the final RFP by April 1, 2014. The RFP will describe the scope of eligible proposals, review criteria, and other guidelines for applicants. The application due date is tentatively set for early August 2014, and the peer review will occur in Fall 2014. New awards will begin in Spring 2015. A tentative timeline is included at the end of this letter.

In announcing the schedule at this time, we hope to allow sufficient opportunity for the UC research community to prepare for the competition. We hope the competition will encourage innovative research collaborations that advance knowledge in critical areas, help advance and strengthen the UC research enterprise, and benefit California, its people and the nation. Proposals should go beyond basic research collaborations at the individual faculty level to fundamentally contribute to UC's strength as a premier public research university. These goals include advancing graduate and postdoctoral training opportunities, and benefiting the system as a whole and the state of California. We look forward to the engagement and interest in campuses to respond to this funding opportunity, and anticipate a highly competitive review.

A note to current MRPI award recipients: New award funding is contingent on success in the upcoming competition. There is no guarantee for future funding, and indeed, it is anticipated both that new initiatives will be funded, and that a number of projects that were funded in the past will have secured sufficient extramural or other support to no longer require MRPI funding for their ongoing success. Most funded projects will have received all their current award funding by June 2014, and there are no supplemental or "bridge" funds available. While the most meritorious projects may receive new funding, current MRPI recipients should begin (or continue) planning for their ongoing financial and programmatic needs independent of MRPI support. You may contact me or Jason Ortego (Jason.Ortego@ucop.edu), UCRI Research Coordinator, if you have questions about your current award.

Again, we are excited to be planning a new competition, and look forward to the coming months as an opportunity to refine the scope and requirements of the new funding cycle in consultation with the research community and leadership at UC. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes for the ongoing success of your research endeavors,



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cc: Steven Beckwith, Vice President, Research & Graduate Studies, UCOP  
Mary Croughan, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office, UCOP

**MRPI – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Competition Timeline (subject to change)\***

Sept 2013 – January 2014	RFP Input and Development Phase
February 2014	Revise and Finalize RFP
April 1, 2014	Proposed Call Release
~June 3, 2014	Letter of Intent Due (early submission allowed)
~June 12, 2014	LOI Notification
~August 7, 2014	Applications Due (there will be NO extensions once the deadline is finalized)
~February 1, 2015	Review Outcome Notification
March 1, 2015	Earliest New Award Start Date (award dates are tentative until RFP is finalized)

\*For updates and announcements related to the MRPI and new competition cycle, please visit our websites at:

UCRI: <http://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/programs/uc-research-initiatives/index.html>

MRPI: <http://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/programs/multi-campus-research-programs-and-initiatives.html>