# University of California Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI)

## Program Information Session, 2025 Awards

April 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

# AGENDA

- Overview of Funding Opportunity
- Application Process
- Review and Scoring Criteria
- Key Dates
- Submitting a Letter of Intent
- Questions & Answers

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

# UC Research Initiatives
# Research Grants Program Office

Programmatic questions should be directed to us at UCRI@ucop.edu

| | |
|---|---|
| Director, UCRI | Anna Ward |
| Program Officers | Alison Annunziata<br>Betty Guo<br>Erin Marnocha<br>Leila Sievanen<br>Rebecca Stanek-Rykoff |

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

# MRPI Goals

- Advance UC research mission
- Leverage expertise across UC system
- Leading edge in new research directions and emerging fields of study

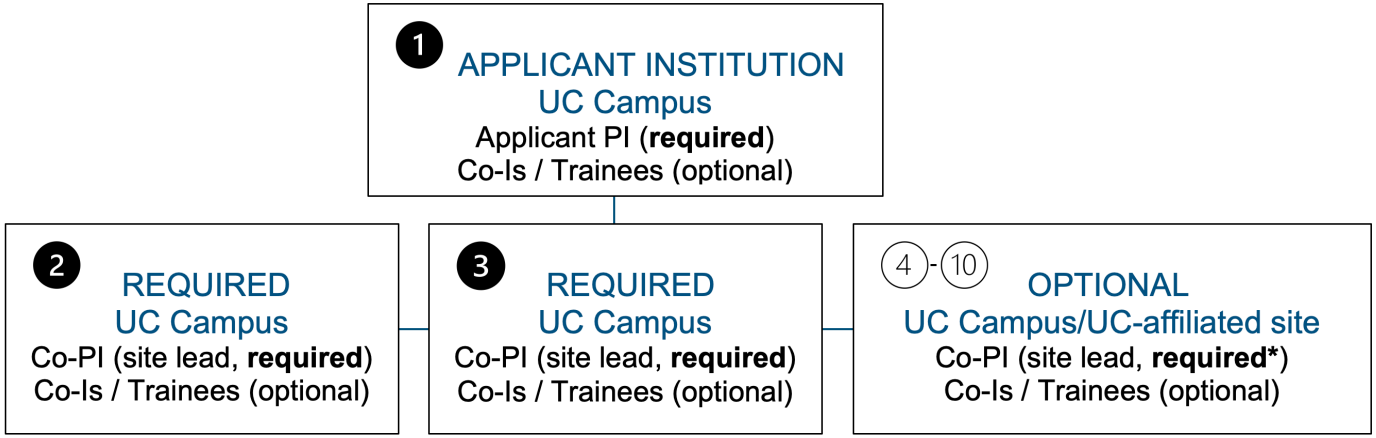
*Innovative, compelling, novel multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research that benefits UC and California*

# MRPI Key Elements

- 3+ UC campuses
- Diverse faculty/researchers
- Research and training opportunities for students

# MRPI Team Structure

- ✓ 1 Applicant PI at host campus
- ✓ 1 Co-PI at each collaborating site
- ✓ Other team members are Co-I, trainee



# Planning/Pilot Award

Award Duration: 1 or 2 years

Funding Request: $150,000/year maximum

Open to: New collaborations

**Examples:**

- Develop research capacity and/or databases
- Training of students, postdocs
- Convening new multicampus workshops

# Program Award

| | |
|---|---|
| Award Duration: | 2 - 4 years |
| Funding Request: | Judicious and well justified |
| Open to: | New or existing collaborations |

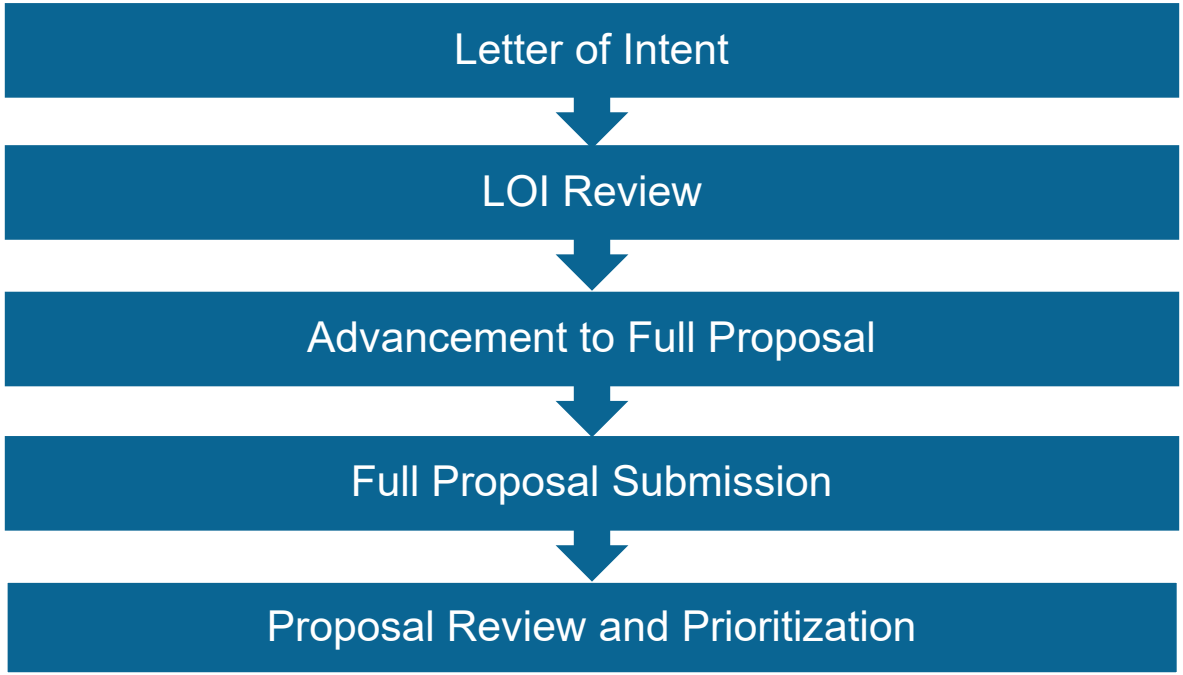
# Program Award, Additional Requirements

- Contributions to Undergraduate Education or Curriculum
- Public Engagement/Community Collaboration

**Examples**

- Community participatory research
- Involving the California public in data collection
- Engaging communities in local problem-solving

## Application Process – Overview



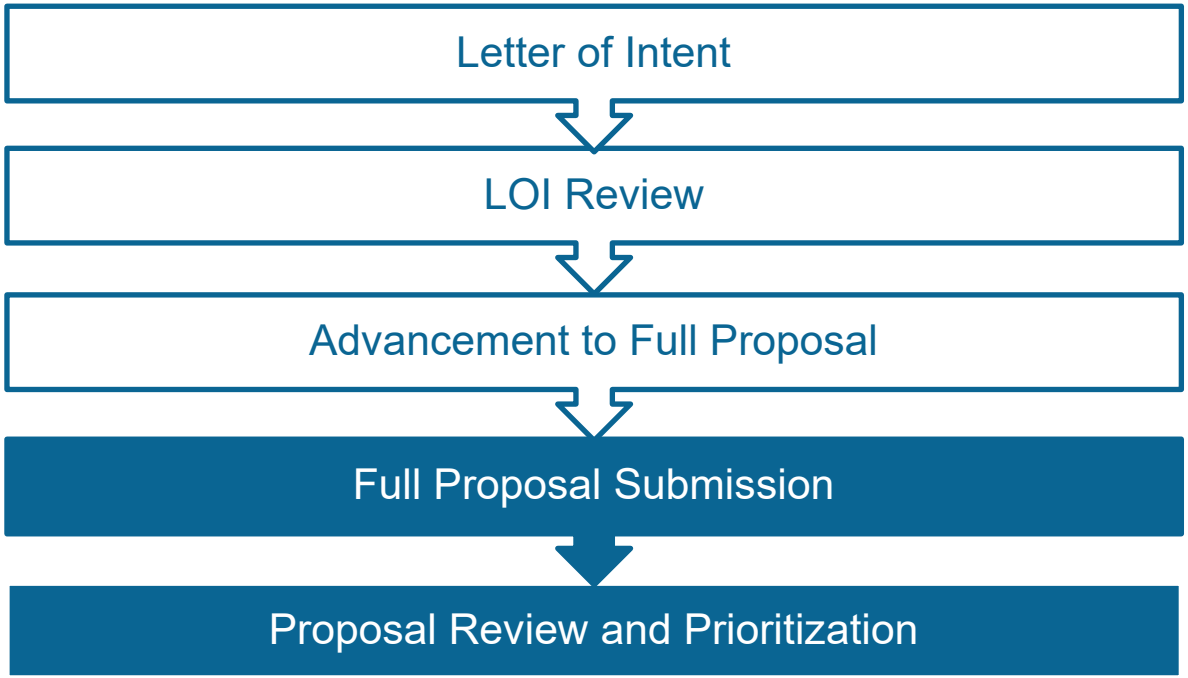
# Letter of Intent (LOI)

Due date: May 16, 2024, 12 Noon Pacific Time

**Evaluated on:**

- Eligibility and completeness
- Compliance with program requirements
- Alignment with program goals and priorities

## Application Process – Proposal Submission and Review



# Full Application Scoring Criteria

- Research Excellence and Innovation
- Strength of Collaboration
- Importance and Benefit to California
- Quality of Graduate Student Training

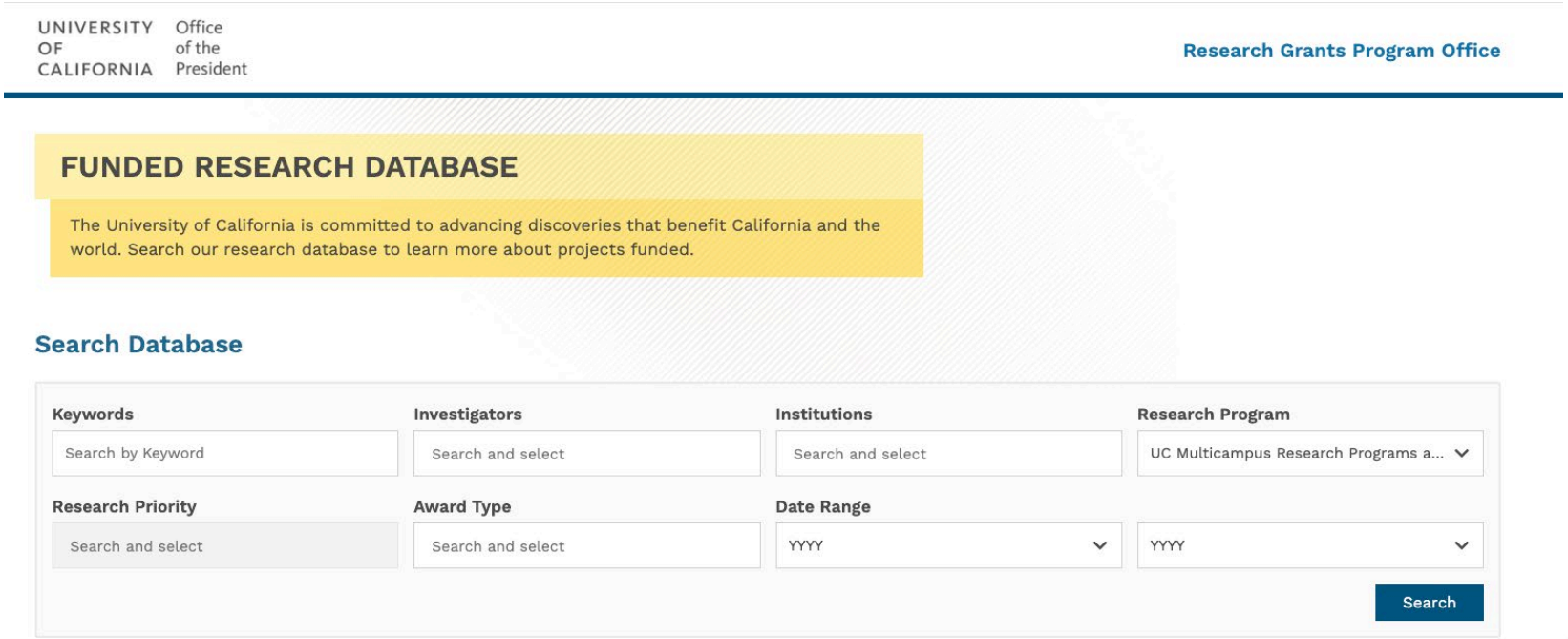
# Program Awards: Additional Scoring Criteria

- Public Engagement/Community Collaboration
- Contributions to Undergraduate Education or Curriculum

# Highly Competitive

- ~$16M in total available funding for all awards
- Budgets should be judicious and well justified in relation to proposed activities
- Adhere to budget guidelines in the RFP and application instructions

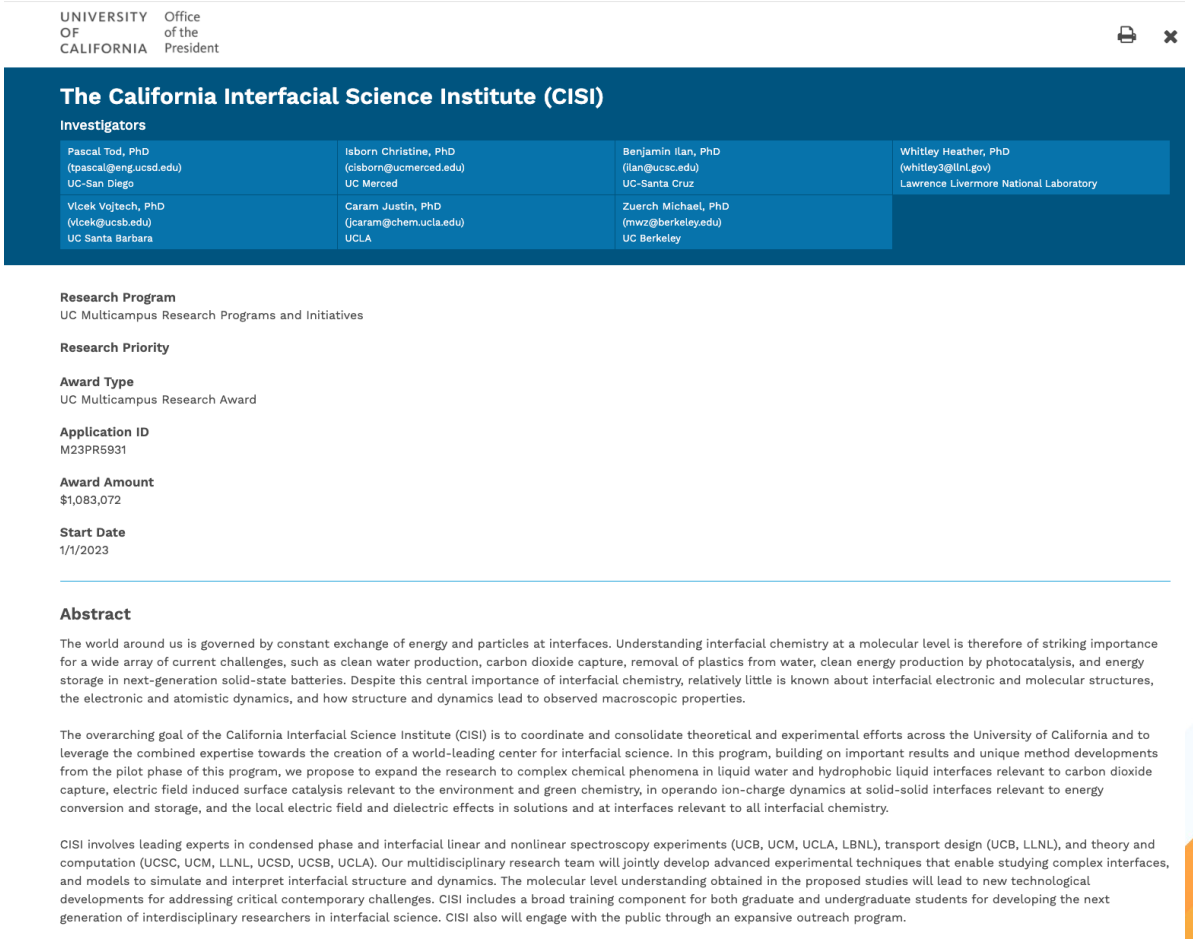
# Funded Research Database



# Funded Research Database

## Information available

- Investigators
- Award type
- Award amount
- Abstract(s)
- Publications



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Office of the President

### The California Interfacial Science Institute (CISI)

**Investigators**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pascal Tod, PhD<br>(tpascal@eng.ucsd.edu)<br>UC-San Diego | Isborn Christine, PhD<br>(cisborn@ucmerced.edu)<br>UC Merced | Benjamin Ilan, PhD<br>(ilan@ucsc.edu)<br>UC-Santa Cruz | Whitley Heather, PhD<br>(whitley3@llnl.gov)<br>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory |
| Vlcek Vojtech, PhD<br>(vlcek@ucsb.edu)<br>UC Santa Barbara | Caram Justin, PhD<br>(jcaram@chem.ucla.edu)<br>UCLA | Zuerch Michael, PhD<br>(mwz@berkeley.edu)<br>UC Berkeley | |

**Research Program**
UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

**Research Priority**

**Award Type**
UC Multicampus Research Award

**Application ID**
M23PR5931

**Award Amount**
$1,083,072

**Start Date**
1/1/2023

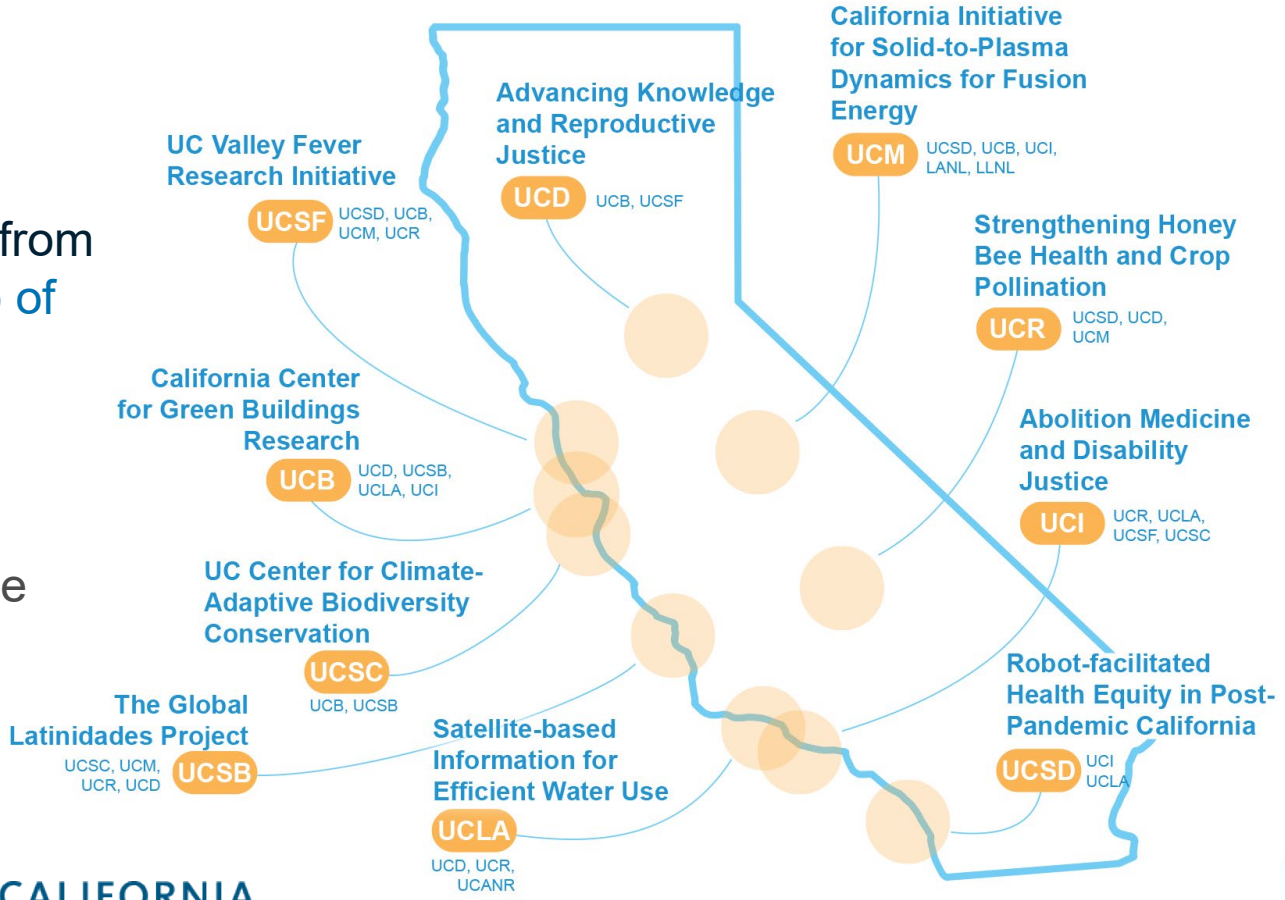
**Abstract**

The world around us is governed by constant exchange of energy and particles at interfaces. Understanding interfacial chemistry at a molecular level is therefore of striking importance for a wide array of current challenges, such as clean water production, carbon dioxide capture, removal of plastics from water, clean energy production by photocatalysis, and energy storage in next-generation solid-state batteries. Despite this central importance of interfacial chemistry, relatively little is known about interfacial electronic and molecular structures, the electronic and atomistic dynamics, and how structure and dynamics lead to observed macroscopic properties.

The overarching goal of the California Interfacial Science Institute (CISI) is to coordinate and consolidate theoretical and experimental efforts across the University of California and to leverage the combined expertise towards the creation of a world-leading center for interfacial science. In this program, building on important results and unique method developments from the pilot phase of this program, we propose to expand the research to complex chemical phenomena in liquid water and hydrophobic liquid interfaces relevant to carbon dioxide capture, electric field induced surface catalysis relevant to the environment and green chemistry, in operando ion-charge dynamics at solid-solid interfaces relevant to energy conversion and storage, and the local electric field and dielectric effects in solutions and at interfaces relevant to all interfacial chemistry.

CISI involves leading experts in condensed phase and interfacial linear and nonlinear spectroscopy experiments (UCB, UCM, UCLA, LBNL), transport design (UCB, LLNL), and theory and computation (UCSC, UCM, LLNL, UCSD, UCSB, UCLA). Our multidisciplinary research team will jointly develop advanced experimental techniques that enable studying complex interfaces, and models to simulate and interpret interfacial structure and dynamics. The molecular level understanding obtained in the proposed studies will lead to new technological developments for addressing critical contemporary challenges. CISI includes a broad training component for both graduate and undergraduate students for developing the next generation of interdisciplinary researchers in interfacial science. CISI also will engage with the public through an expansive outreach program.

Even a handful from MRPI's portfolio of 125 projects showcases the program's comprehensive scope across the UC.




UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

## Key Dates

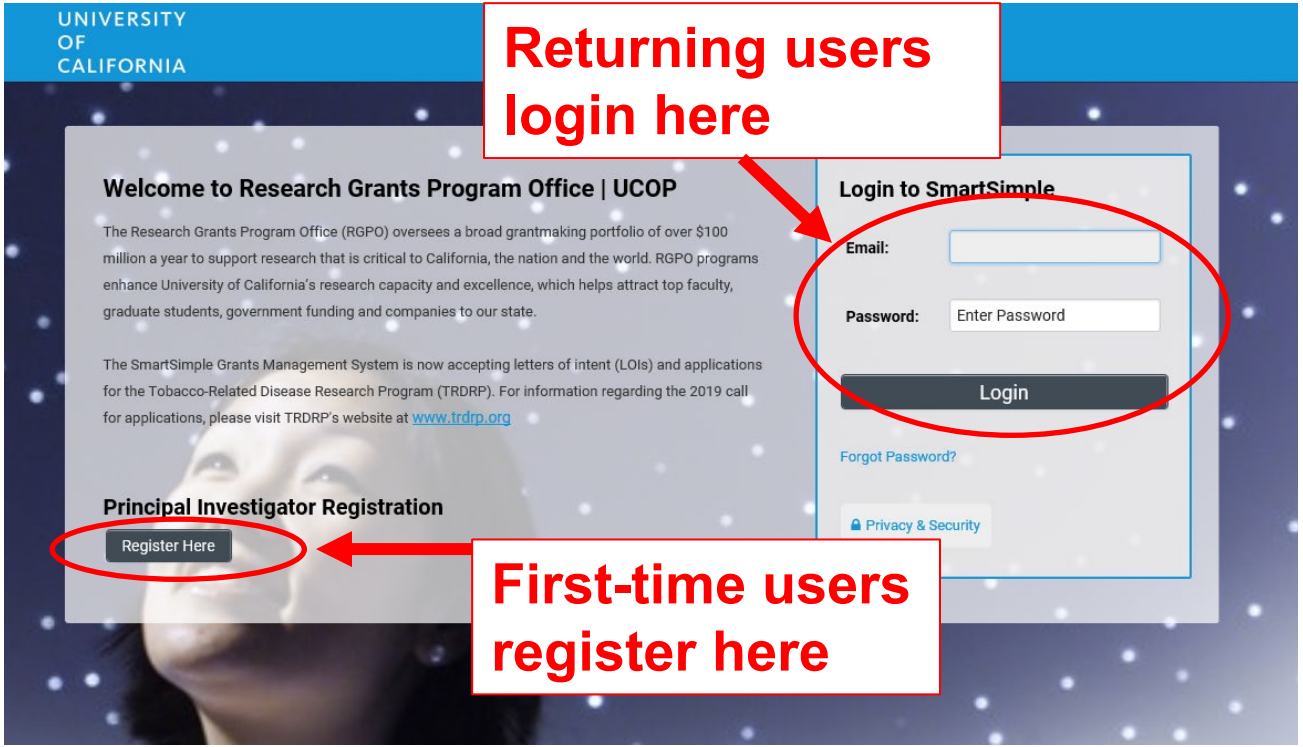
| Letters of Intent (LOI) Due | Notification of LOI Decision | Full Proposals Due | Award Start Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thursday May 16, 2024 12 noon PT | Thursday June 6, 2024 (expected) | Thursday Aug 8, 2024 12 noon PT | January 1 2025 |

# LOI Tips

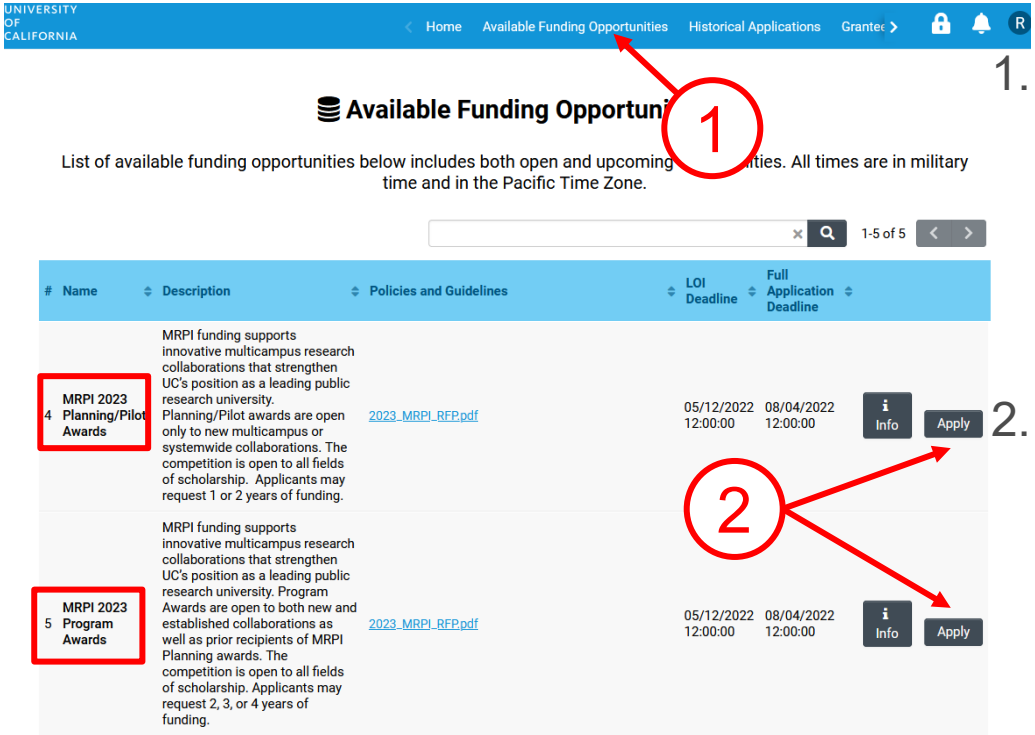
- Consider MRPI goals and intent carefully
- Assemble MRPI leadership team (PI and Co-PIs)
- Co-PI Eligibility Form verifying PI status & eligibility
- Begin the LOI and proposal submission process early
- Use the LOI Submission Checklist

# Accessing Smart Simple

Login to SmartSimple: [https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/](https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/)

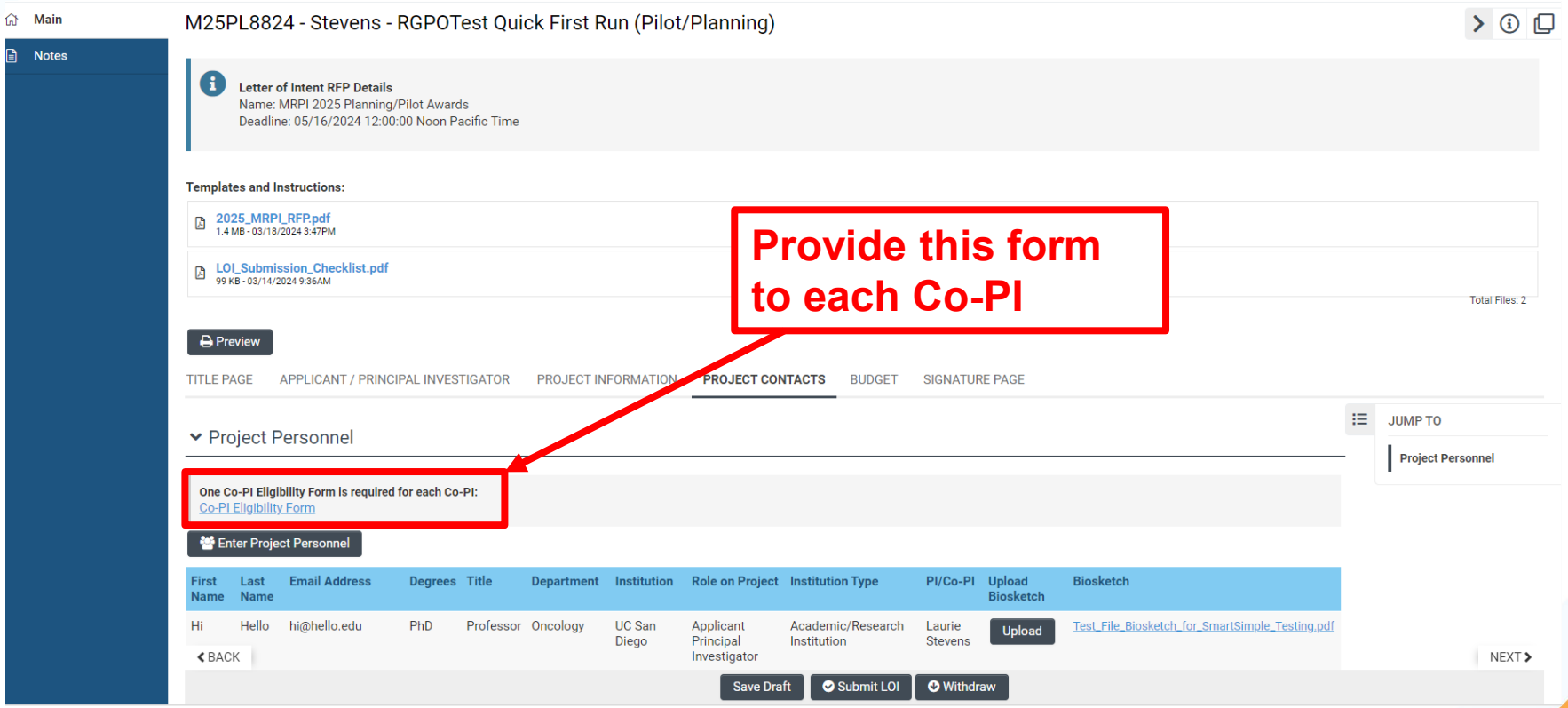


# Preparing and Submitting an LOI




1. Click on the **"Available Funding Opportunities"** tab in the upper right corner.
2. Find the row that corresponds to the award type you're interested in and click "**Apply**."

# Preparing and Submitting an LOI – Co-PI



# Preparing and Submitting an LOI - uploads

1. Click "Enter Project Personnel" to enter Applicant PI and Co-PI details and Save Draft

## Project Personnel

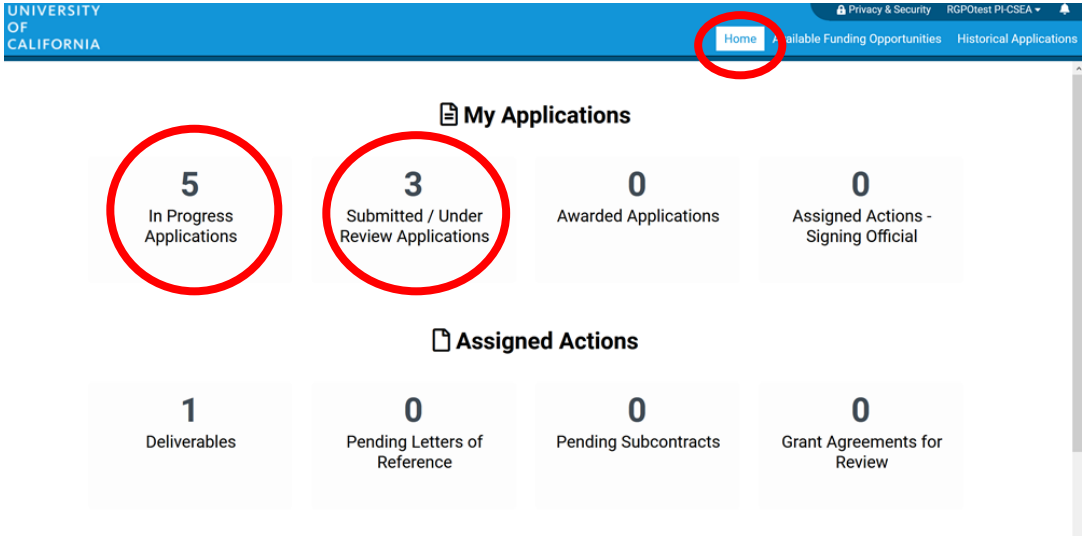
**One Co-PI Eligibility Form is required for each Co-PI:**
Co-PI Eligibility Form

Enter Project Personnel

| First Name | Last Name | Email Address | Degrees | Title | Department | Institution | Role on Project | Institution Type | PI/Co-PI | Upload Biosketch | Biosketch |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hi | Hello | hi@hello.edu | PhD | Professor | Oncology | UC San Diego | Applicant Principal Investigator | Academic/Research Institution | Hi Hello | Upload | Test_File_Biosketch_for_SmartSimple_Testing.pdf |
| Joe | Smith | testing@ucmm.edu | PhD | Professor | Biochemistry | UC Mercy Merced | Co-Principal Investigator | Academic/Research Institution | Hi Hello | Upload | Biosketch_for_Co-PI_with_Eligiblity_Form_(test).pdf |

2. Click "Upload" to upload the biosketch and Co-PI Eligibility Form for each Co-PI

# Accessing Your Draft LOI




1. Click the “Home” link in the upper-right hand corner of the screen
   *Note: you should by default land on this dashboard when you log into SmartSimple*
2. Click “In Progress Applications” to access your draft LOI
3. After submission of an LOI or Full Application, the record can be found under “Submitted/Under Review Applications”

# Common LOI Errors

- Project Personnel Table- Correct Roles
  - *One Applicant PI* at applicant campus
  - *One Co-PI* at each of the other collaborating locations
  - Other collaborators are *Co-Is or Trainees* (not required at LOI stage)
- Provide a UC/institutional email for each project team member
- Limit biosketches/CVs to 3 pages each
- Co-PI Eligibility Form needed for each Co-PI

# I still have questions….

- Ask them today
- Read the RFP, FAQs, and LOI instructions
- Visit our website

  www.ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/mrpi
- Contact us as questions arise

# Contact Information

**FOR SMARTSIMPLE SUPPORT:**

Research Grants Program Office (RGPO)

RGPOGrants@ucop.edu

**FOR PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS:**

University of California Research Initiatives (UCRI)

UCRI@ucop.edu

# Thank you

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES