University of California Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI)

Program Information Session, 2025 Awards

April 2024
AGENDA

• Overview of Funding Opportunity
• Application Process
• Review and Scoring Criteria
• Key Dates
• Submitting a Letter of Intent
• Questions & Answers
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
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Erin Marnocha
Leila Sievanen
Rebecca Stanek-Rykoff
Overview of Funding Opportunity – Goals

**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
Overview of Funding Opportunity – Team Structure

MRPI Team Structure

1. **APPLICANT INSTITUTION**
   - UC Campus
   - Applicant PI (*required*)
   - Co-Is / Trainees (optional)

2. **REQUIRED**
   - UC Campus
   - Co-PI (site lead, *required*)
   - Co-Is / Trainees (optional)

3. **REQUIRED**
   - UC Campus
   - Co-PI (site lead, *required*)
   - Co-Is / Trainees (optional)

4. **OPTIONAL**
   - UC Campus/UC-affiliated site
   - Co-PI (site lead, *required* *)
   - Co-Is / Trainees (optional)

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RESEARCH INITIATIVES
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
Overview of Funding Opportunity – Additional Requirements

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

1. Letter of Intent
2. LOI Review
3. Advancement to Full Proposal
4. Full Proposal Submission
5. Proposal Review and Prioritization
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

Letter of Intent

LOI Review

Advancement to Full Proposal

Full Proposal Submission

Proposal Review and Prioritization
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
Review and Scoring Criteria – Competition

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

The University of California is committed to advancing discoveries that benefit California and the world. Search our research database to learn more about projects funded.

Search Database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Research Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search by Keyword</td>
<td>Search and select</td>
<td>Search and select</td>
<td>UC Multicampus Research Programs at...</td>
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<tr>
<th>Research Priority</th>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
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YYYY
The California Interfacial Science Institute (CISI)

Investigators
- Pascal Tod, PhD (pascal@uci.edu)
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  UC Berkeley

Research Program
UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

Research Priority
UC Multicampus Research Program Award

Application ID
M3PR58371

Award Amount
$1,000,000

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 atomicistic 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, LLNL), transport design (UCB, LLNL), and theory and computation (UCSC, UCM, LLNL, UCSD, UC5B, 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.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Key Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent (LOI) Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday May 16, 2024 12 noon PT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of LOI Decision</td>
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<td>Thursday June 6, 2024 (expected)</td>
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<td>Full Proposals Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Aug 8, 2024 12 noon PT</td>
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<td>Award Start Date</td>
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<td>January 1 2025</td>
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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/

**Returning users**
login here

**First-time users**
register here

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Submitting a Letter of Intent
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.”
Provide this form to each Co-PI
1. Click "Enter Project Personnel" to enter Applicant PI and Co-PI details and Save Draft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Degrees</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Role on Project</th>
<th>Institution Type</th>
<th>PI/Co-PI</th>
<th>Upload Biosketch</th>
<th>Biosketch</th>
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<td>PhD</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Oncology</td>
<td>UC San Diego</td>
<td>Applicant Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Academic/Research Institution</td>
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<td><a href="#">Upload</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Test File Biosketch for SmartSimple Testing.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:testing@ucmm.edu">testing@ucmm.edu</a></td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>UC Mercy Merced</td>
<td>Co-Principal Investigator</td>
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<td>Hi Hello</td>
<td><a href="#">Upload</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Biosketch for Co-PI with Eligibility Form (test).pdf</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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