

---

# 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

---

# UC Research Initiatives Research Grants Program Office

Programmatic questions should be directed to us at [UCRI@ucop.edu](mailto:UCRI@ucop.edu)

Director, UCRI

Anna Ward

Program Officers

Alison Annunziata

Betty Guo

Erin Marnocha

Leila Sievanen

Rebecca Stanek-Rykoff

## MRPI Goals

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

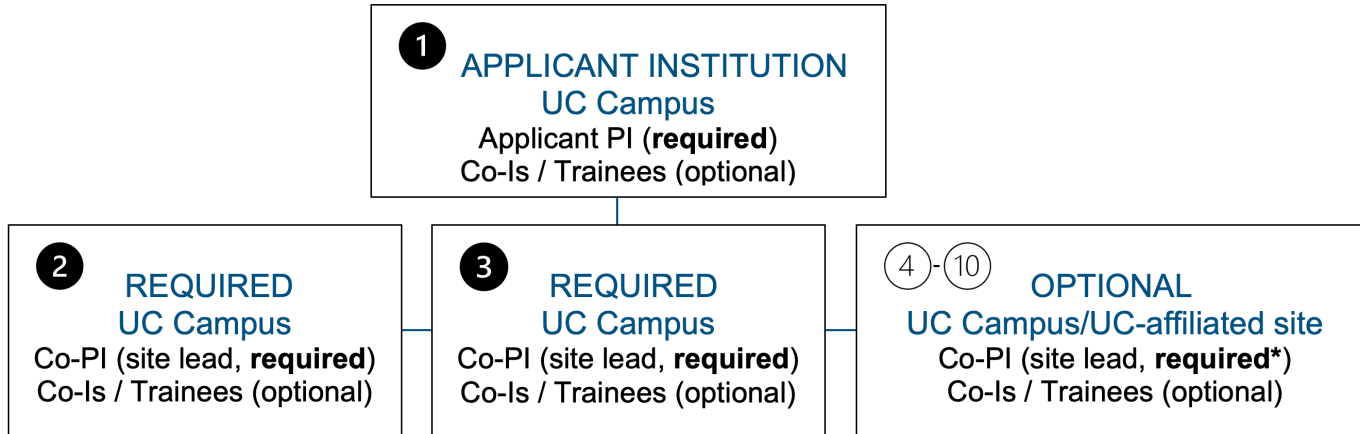
*Innovative, compelling, novel multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research that benefits UC and California*

## MRPI Key Elements

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

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

# MRPI Team Structure



## 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

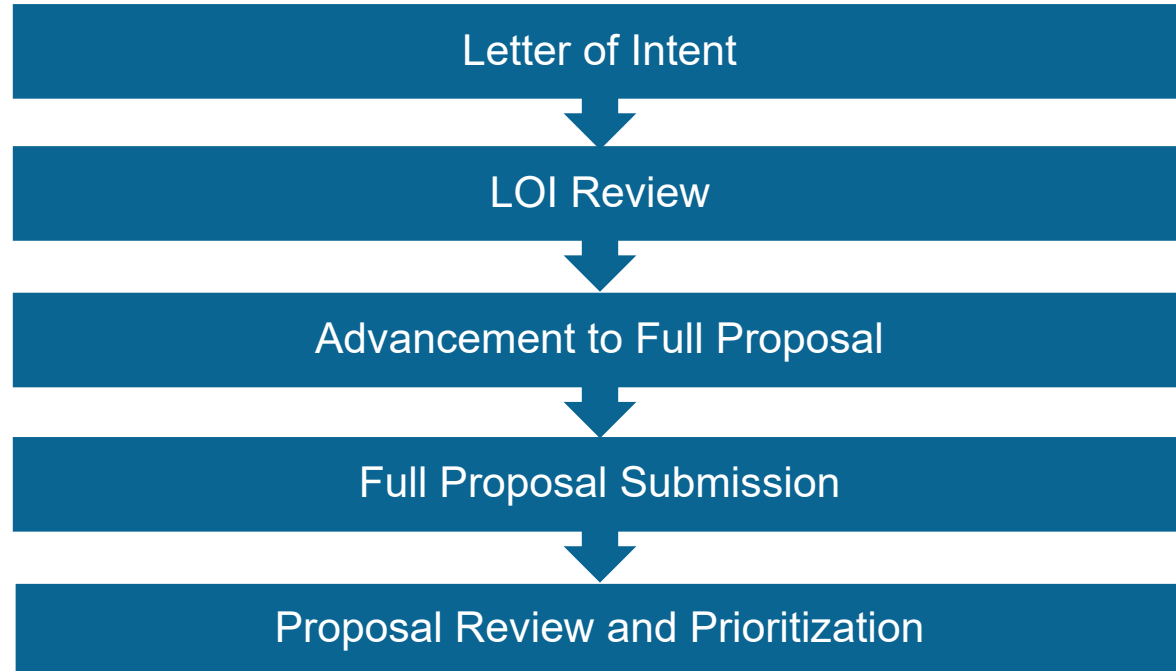
- Contributions to Undergraduate Education or Curriculum
- Public Engagement/Community Collaboration

### **Examples**

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

## Application Process – Overview

---



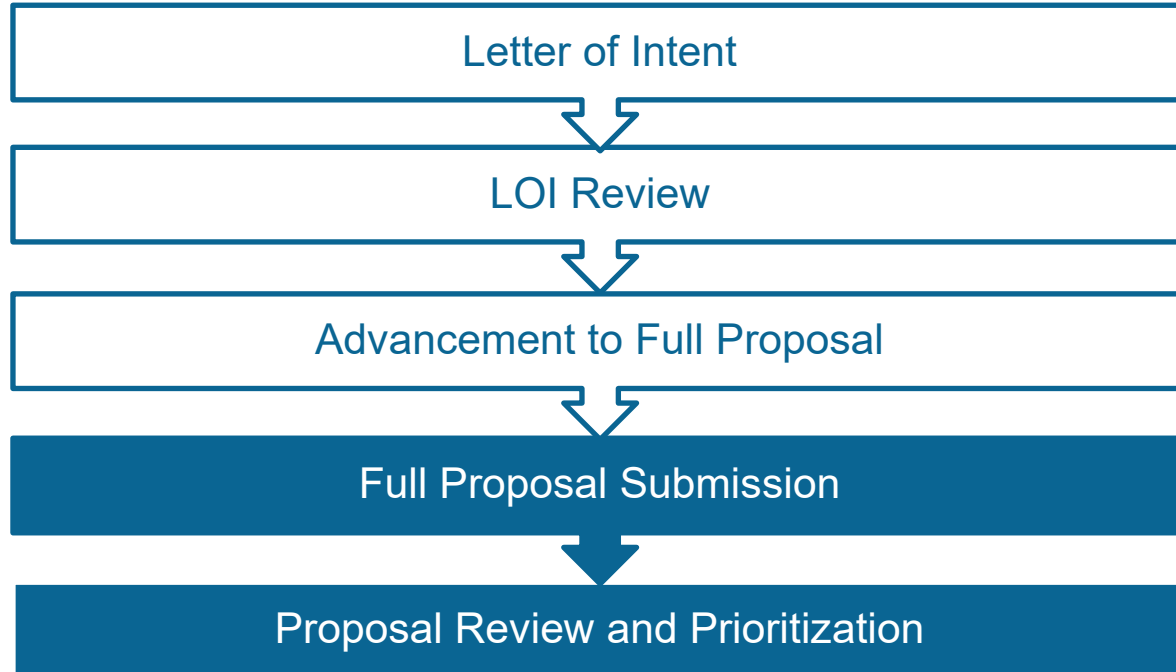
## Letter of Intent (LOI)

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Office of the President

Research Grants Program Office

## 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

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Keywords</b><br>Search by Keyword          | <b>Investigators</b><br>Search and select | <b>Institutions</b><br>Search and select | <b>Research Program</b><br>UC Multicampus Research Programs a... ▼ |
| <b>Research Priority</b><br>Search and select | <b>Award Type</b><br>Search and select    | <b>Date Range</b><br>YYYY ▼              | YYYY ▼   |

Search



# Funded Research Database

UNIVERSITY Office  
OF of the  
CALIFORNIA President



## Information available

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

### 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 |
| Vícek Vojtech, PhD<br>(vicek@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

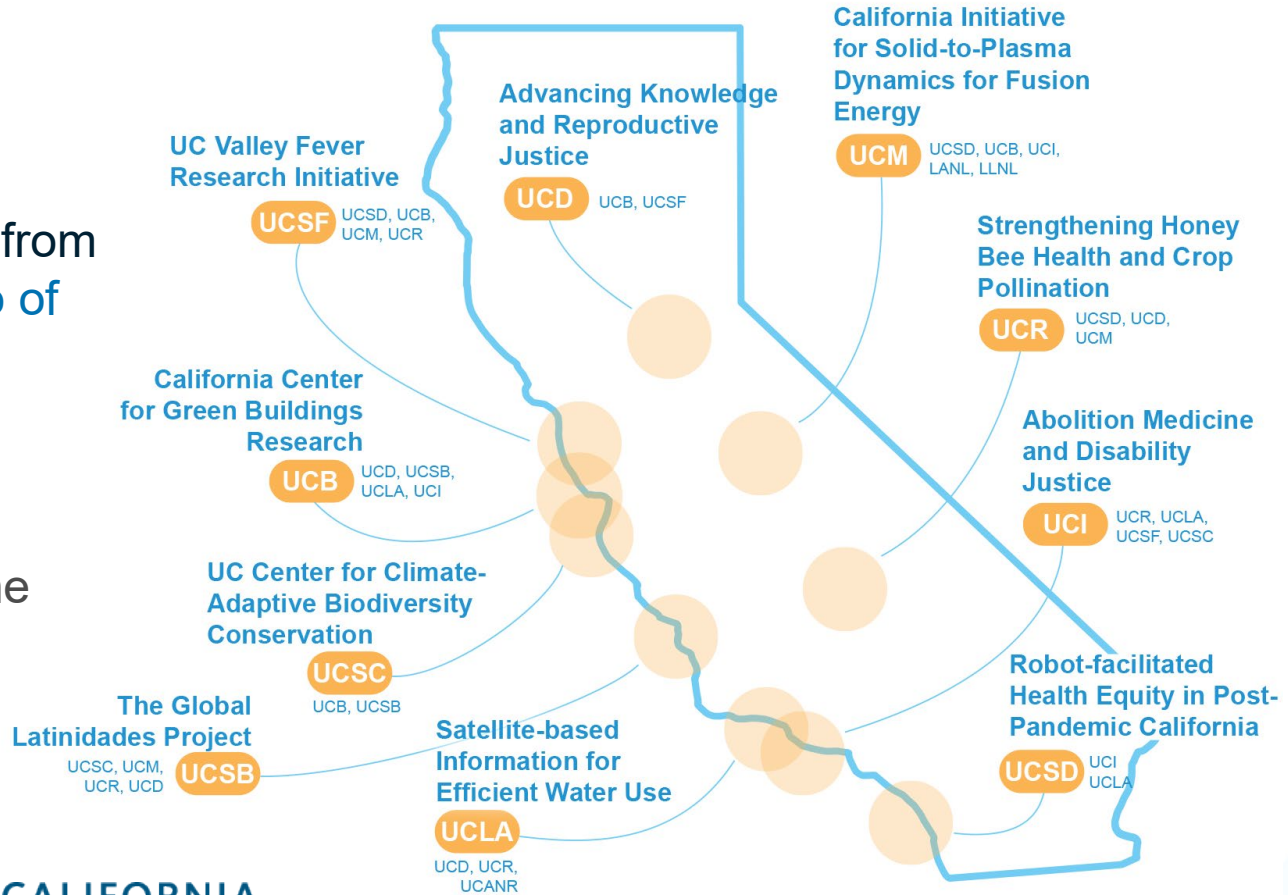
#### Abstract

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

Thursday  
May 16, 2024  
12 noon PT

Notification of  
LOI Decision

Thursday  
June 6, 2024  
(expected)

Full Proposals  
Due

Thursday  
Aug 8, 2024  
12 noon PT

Award Start  
Date

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/>

The screenshot shows the SmartSimple login interface. At the top left, the University of California logo is visible. The main content area is titled "Welcome to Research Grants Program Office | UCOP" and contains introductory text about the RGPO and the SmartSimple system. On the right side, there is a "Login to SmartSimple" form with fields for "Email:" and "Password:" (with a placeholder "Enter Password") and a "Login" button. Below the form are links for "Forgot Password?" and "Privacy & Security".

Annotations on the page include:

- A red box with the text "Returning users login here" and a red arrow pointing to the "Login" button.
- A red box with the text "First-time users register here" and a red arrow pointing to a "Register Here" button located under the "Principal Investigator Registration" section.

# Preparing and Submitting an LOI

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

< Home Available Funding Opportunities Historical Applications Grants > 🔒 🔔 R

## Available Funding Opportunities

List of available funding opportunities below includes both open and upcoming opportunities. All times are in military time and in the Pacific Time Zone.

1-5 of 5

| # | Name                            | Description   | Policies and Guidelines           | LOI Deadline        | Full Application Deadline | Info | Apply |
|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------|-------|
| 4 | MRPI 2023 Planning/Pilot Awards | MRPI funding supports innovative multicampus research collaborations that strengthen UC's position as a leading public research university. Planning/Pilot awards are open only to new multicampus or systemwide collaborations. The competition is open to all fields of scholarship. Applicants may request 1 or 2 years of funding.  | <a href="#">2023_MRPI_RFP.pdf</a> | 05/12/2022 12:00:00 | 08/04/2022 12:00:00       | Info | Apply |
| 5 | MRPI 2023 Program Awards        | MRPI funding supports innovative multicampus research collaborations that strengthen UC's position as a leading public research university. Program Awards are open to both new and established collaborations as well as prior recipients of MRPI Planning awards. The competition is open to all fields of scholarship. Applicants may request 2, 3, or 4 years of funding. | <a href="#">2023_MRPI_RFP.pdf</a> | 05/12/2022 12:00:00 | 08/04/2022 12:00:00       | Info | Apply |

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

Main

M25PL8824 - Stevens - RGPOTest Quick First Run (Pilot/Planning)



Notes



## Letter of Intent RFP Details

Name: MRPI 2025 Planning/Pilot Awards

Deadline: 05/16/2024 12:00:00 Noon Pacific Time

### Templates and Instructions:



[2025\\_MRPL\\_RFP.pdf](#)

1.4 MB - 03/18/2024 3:47PM



[LOI\\_Submission\\_Checklist.pdf](#)

99 KB - 03/14/2024 9:36AM

Total Files: 2

Preview

TITLE PAGE   APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR   PROJECT INFORMATION   **PROJECT CONTACTS**   BUDGET   SIGNATURE PAGE

### ▼ Project Personnel



JUMP TO

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 | Laurie Stevens | <input type="button" value="Upload"/> | <a href="#">Test_File_Biosketch_for_SmartSimple_Testing.pdf</a> |

← BACK

NEXT →

Save Draft

Submit LOI

Withdraw

Provide this form to each 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 | <input type="button" value="Upload"/> | <a href="#">Test_File_Biosketch_for_SmartSimple_Testing.pdf</a>      |
| Joe        | Smith     | testing@ucmm.edu | PhD     | Professor | Biochemistry | UC Mercy Merced | Co-Principal Investigator        | Academic/Research Institution | Hi Hello | <input type="button" value="Upload"/> | <a href="#">Biosketch_for_Co-PI_with_Eligibility_Form_(test).pdf</a> |

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



# Accessing Your Draft LOI

The screenshot displays the University of California SmartSimple dashboard. At the top, the navigation bar includes the University of California logo on the left and links for 'Home', 'Available Funding Opportunities', and 'Historical Applications' on the right. The 'Home' link is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, the 'My Applications' section is titled and contains four cards: 'In Progress Applications' (5), 'Submitted / Under Review Applications' (3), 'Awarded Applications' (0), and 'Assigned Actions - Signing Official' (0). The 'In Progress' and 'Submitted / Under Review' cards are circled in red. Below this, the 'Assigned Actions' section is titled and contains four cards: 'Deliverables' (1), 'Pending Letters of Reference' (0), 'Pending Subcontracts' (0), and 'Grant Agreements for Review' (0).

| My Applications          |                                       |                      |                                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5                        | 3                                     | 0                    | 0                                   |
| In Progress Applications | Submitted / Under Review Applications | Awarded Applications | Assigned Actions - Signing Official |

| Assigned Actions |                              |                      |                             |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1                | 0                            | 0                    | 0                           |
| Deliverables     | Pending Letters of Reference | Pending Subcontracts | Grant Agreements for Review |

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](http://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](mailto:RGPOGrants@ucop.edu)

### FOR PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS:

University of California Research

Initiatives (UCRI)

[UCRI@ucop.edu](mailto:UCRI@ucop.edu)

---

**Thank you**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
RESEARCH INITIATIVES