

University Review Criteria for Opportunity Award:

“Projects should be innovative, support institutional mission goals, have strong potential for garnering future funding from external sources, or have outstanding commercial potential. Opportunity Fund awards are not intended to support on-going projects -- **they should support new projects (not a supplement to current research) and/or new collaborative partnerships. The proposal must emphasize novel research.** To be competitive, proposals must be multi-/interdisciplinary and must involve faculty from at least two departments/units/colleges. Single-investigator proposals are not eligible. The proposal must be hypothesis-driven to be competitive.”

With the above criteria in mind, please rank Individual Scored Criteria (Significance, Innovation, Approach, Future Funding Potential) and Overall Impact using the 9-point rating scale used by the NIH: **1 = exceptional and 9 = poor. Please provide brief bulleted comments justifying the scoring under each criterion.** Based on your overall review, please assign an Overall Score ranging from 1.0 (highest priority) to 9.0 (lowest priority); applications will be rank ordered for order of discussion based on Overall Score. **An application of average strength relative to other applications should receive a score of 5.0; the specific definitions for each assigned score are below:**

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact

Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact

Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact

Application Title:

Principal Investigator(s):

INDIVIDUAL REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field? **Please limit text to ¼ page**

SCORE (1-9): _____

Strengths

-
-

Weaknesses

-
-

2. Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed? **Proposed projects should be innovative and should support the mission and goals of the College. The awards are designed to support new ideas (projects) and/or new collaborative partnerships (rather than existing ones).** **Please limit text to ¼ page**

SCORE (1-9): _____

Strengths

-
-

Weaknesses

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-

3. Approach. Is the project hypothesis driven? Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Gender/minority inclusion and human subject protections are also relevant here. **Please limit text to ¼ page**

SCORE (1-9): _____

Strengths

-
-

Weaknesses

-
-

4. Future Funding Potential OR Technology Transfer Potential. The projects should be designed to produce data that will serve as the basis for subsequent externally-funded projects, or they should result in tech transfer opportunities. Proposed projects should include a plan for future funding by alternative external mechanisms (e.g., NIH, CDC, AHEC, ACS, AHA, etc), or discuss tech transfer strategy and opportunity. Proposals generally should list the source(s) of external support (i.e., agency and program) that will be pursued and why the listed agency is likely to be interested in funding the project. **Please limit text to ¼ pag**

SCORE (1-9): _____

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

5. Collaboration. To be competitive, proposals must be multi-/interdisciplinary and must involve faculty from at least two departments/units/colleges. Projects must represent NEW collaborations. **Please limit text to ¼ page**

SCORE (1-9): _____

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

OVERALL IMPACT

Overall impact. Reviewers will provide an overall score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to meet the criteria for the Opportunity Fund in consideration of the core review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed). Use your judgment in weighing the relative importance of each criterion. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative, but is essential to gain external funding. **An application of average strength relative to other applications ordinarily reviewed by the study section should receive a score of 5.0.**

- Assign Your Overall Score here (1.0 – 9.0): _____

ADDITIONAL REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

The impact/priority score should not be affected by the following considerations although feedback should be provided as appropriate.

Budget and Period of Support. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research. This is also the area to indicate any concerns with safety of human subjects or vertebrate animals.

Recommended budget modifications or possible overlap identified:

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