Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR™)* Grant Program Announcement

Program Overview

The UC Davis Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR) Grant Program, now in its second year (FY 2014-2015), is managed by the Venture Catalyst unit and funded by the Office of Research.

The objective of the program is to provide targeted funding to support translational science and innovative research performed by UC Davis researchers, with the intent of demonstrating early proof-of-concept and commercial potential and/or feasibility for technologies being developed at UC Davis for potential commercial translation. Examples of outcomes that might be realized from availability of such research results include: development of research or commercial prototypes; generation of translational data that would not have been funded by traditional research grants; patent claims enablement; and enablement of more competitive SBIR/STTR grant applications by a subsequent startup that benefits from license rights to the underlying technologies.

The program seeks to stimulate entrepreneurial engagement by university researchers with potential for local and regional economic impact.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Projects will include those which feature an early-stage technology that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- The project has advanced beyond the fundamental research stage, but lacks early proof-of-concept data to demonstrate that commercial potential exists (or to more clearly identify development risk)
- The project has demonstrated successful results in the research environment and is poised for commercialization pending a specific, targeted demonstration, test result, or prototype
- The project has reached a critical stage of technology development, whereby specific commercialization feasibility questions can be answered within program resource constraints

Eligible applicants:

- Anyone with Principal Investigator (PI) eligibility at UC Davis is eligible to apply as a PI for a STAIR Grant.
- Postdoctoral scholars and university staff are eligible to submit applications as Co-PI with an eligible PI.

As a condition of STAIR funding, one or more of the PI, co-PI and key personnel will have participated in or will commit to participate in an upcoming Entrepreneurship Academy administered by the UC Davis Child Family Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Grant Terms and Amounts

Up to $250,000 is available for the STAIR Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Grants are for a single 12-month period from the date of grant funds disbursement. All submitted proposals must be limited in scope of work and budget so as to be completed within that 12-month period. Approved projects may be eligible for up to $50,000. The number of STAIR Grants awarded will depend on the total funds available each fiscal year and on the total funds requested and approved.

How to Apply:

For more information and application materials, visit the Venture Catalyst website at:
http://research.ucdavis.edu/offices/vc/stair/.

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