APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS - 2011
FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS

1. Complete the Application for Faculty Research Award Cover Page. Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator(s) and Department Chair signatures are required on the cover page. Complete the Checklist Page.

**Eligibility:** Regular and non-regular faculty with an appointment in the CVM (salaried), at the assistant professor level or above.

2. Evaluation Criteria:

This program is designed to support faculty initiatives in establishing independent research programs, supported by extramural resources. Meritorious grants with justified budgets up to $18,000 will be awarded for a period of one year. A no-cost extension of up to one additional year may be requested, when justified.

Grant awards are made to a faculty member on the basis of scientific merit and the potential fulfillment of program goals. The merits of the proposed research are paramount and determined by the perceived potential to be funded by extramural programs. Thus, it is essential that the proposed research theme: 1) easily fulfill the scientific scrutiny of peers outside this University; 2) has the promise of fulfilling program goals for support by extramural agencies; and, 3) when appropriately developed, lead to a grant submission with reasonable expectations for positive peer review for funding. A faculty research award is expected to contribute to the career development of the PI through the scholarship expressed in this research achievement. While establishing research collaborations may provide an important asset, their value should be evident by enriching the merits of the research plan and not the conceptual development of the proposal. In other words, ownership of the research theme needs to be that of the PI's.

Program goals recognize the importance of supporting young faculty to become established independent investigators. It is equally important, however, to support more established investigators who have a proven record of extramural grant support, but are 'caught' between funding periods, require 'seed-money' to move a priority score into the fundable range, have exceptional needs and/or need to establish 'proof of concept' of a research theme that would open a new area of research. Further, seasoned senior, funded investigators are welcome to compete for Faculty Research Awards, recognizing the priorities established above. When any part of the present proposal has been submitted for funding elsewhere, the PI must submit the review summaries, if available. While students, interns/residents, and fellows are encouraged to contribute to the research, the PI must be a CVM faculty member (salaried) and is responsible for the conduct and successful completion of the research work.

3. Review Criteria:

A) **Merits of the Research (60% of total score)**

   a) **Significance of the Problem (30%)**  
   
   Does the study address an important problem? How would the proposed work advance our knowledge? Does the research theme advance our understanding of biological systems, improve the control of disease, and/or enhance health? Would you expect scientific scope and potential of the research to be nationally competitive?

   b) **Experimental Approach (30%)**  
   
   Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses of the data adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches and/or methods? Are the aims original and innovative?
the project challenge existing paradigms and/or develop methodologies or technologies? Does the PI provide a basis for interpretation of results, recognize potential problems, and consider alternatives when necessary? Is the study feasible with the expertise, personnel, and resources, etc. that are available? What is the likelihood that the proposed work will lead to definitive results? Are there any impediments to the successful outcome of this work that are unseen by the PI? Is the proposed work reasonable to achieve in a timely manner with the resources available? Are additional skills, technologies, and/or competencies required to pursue this research theme to become competitive nationally?

B) Potential for Extramural Funding (40% of total score)

Text of the proposal should permit the reviewer to answer these questions:

Is there a demonstrated potential for this research theme to be attractive to national foundations and/or agencies? Does the research theme fit to a program goal of a foundation and/or funding agency? Would the research theme of this proposal be well received through peer review by committees of research funding foundations and/or agencies? How would completion of this work provide the essential element necessary for extramural funding? Does this work open a new research theme for the PI? If applicable, how was this work received in previous extramural peer review(s)? If available, please provide a synopsis or copy of outside review sheets, and how this proposal responds to those review(s)?

C) Budget

Is the budget reasonable and justified? Can the work be completed with the requested budget? Are there other resources committed to complete the work?

D) Currently Active CVM Faculty Research Grant Awardees:

If the PI currently has a CVM Faculty Research Award, it is essential to provide a paragraph to describe the progress and how the goals of this previous award have been [or will be] achieved by the time this new application could be initiated, if funded.

The qualifications of the PI become evident in the development of the significant problem and the experimental approach. While establishing research collaborations is an important independent asset, their value should be evident by enriching the merits of the research plan. Career development of the PI is expected to be enriched through the completion of the work of this research proposal.

4. Proposal Preparation:

Proposal format corresponds to NIH style. Page limits per section are given in parentheses. The proposal, excluding abstract, budget, references, biosketch(s), vertebrate animal description, collaborator letter(s), and protocol approvals, shall not exceed 11 pages (clarity of thought is often evident in concise written presentation). Font size shall be no smaller than 11 point and 15 characters per inch (Arial or Helvetica 12 pt. is recommended). Margin size shall be no smaller than one-half inch. Proposals submitted in excess of page limits will be returned without review.

I. ABSTRACT

Summary/description of the project (1-2 paragraphs).

II. DETAILED BUDGET (Itemize by main categories). Is budget adequate to complete work; identify additional resources committed to complete.

A. Personnel: Estimate and justify time commitments. Include appropriate fringe benefits (benefit-eligible personnel = 30.37%; non-benefit-eligible personnel = 7.65%).

(Note: The Faculty Research Award does not provide support for faculty salaries; cost-sharing NOT required.)
B. Equipment: List only equipment items related to this specific project.
C. Supplies
D. Animals: Estimate number, cost and per diem rate.
E. Miscellaneous Costs: Include services required for project, publishing costs, travel costs, etc.

III. RESEARCH PLAN
A. Introduction and Specific Aims (1 page)
   Brief introductory remarks followed by the specific objective(s) of the proposed research.
B. Background and Significance (2 pages)
   a. Background: Briefly review the most significant previous work and describe the current status of research in this field. Include work funded by previous CVM research grants. Discuss the importance of the proposed work as it relates to medicine and science.
   b. Rationale: Present the rationale behind the approach to the problem and state the hypothesis.
C. Preliminary Studies/Data (2 pages)
   Note: Preliminary data is not required, but helpful when feasibility of performing the research is an issue.
D. Research Design/Methods (4 pages). Include merits of collaborations and co-investigators, where applicable. Detail the research plan, including
   ▪ Description of experiments, methods, and techniques to be used;
   ▪ Anticipated results, potential and pitfalls; and
   ▪ Means by which data will be analyzed or interpreted.

IV. FUTURE FUNDING POTENTIAL (1 page)
State the potential for future funding.

V. POTENTIAL FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (1 paragraph)
How does the proposed research relate to your overall research goals?

VI. CURRENT, PENDING AND ALTERNATIVE SUPPORT
List any current, public or private research support (including in-house support), to which key personnel identified in the proposal have time commitments. List pending proposals under consideration or expected to be submitted by the PI in the near future. When any part of the present proposal has been submitted for funding elsewhere, the PI must submit the review summaries, if available. Identify proposals submitted in the last two years that were unfunded.

VII. PRODUCTIVITY SUMMARY
If principal investigator has been awarded CVM research funds in the last 5 years, list publications and grant applications submitted for extramural funding -- include complete references for the publications and date, agency and title of submitted grant applications.

VIII. SUMMARY OF COMPLETION OF CURRENT FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD, IF APPLICABLE
If the PI currently has a CVM Faculty Research Award, it is essential to provide a paragraph to describe the progress and how the goals of the previous award have been [or will be] achieved by the time this new application could be initiated, if funded.

IX. REFERENCES
List selected publications of yours and/or others (including those in press) which relate to this proposal.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT
Include letters from collaborators willing to participate in the proposed research, if necessary. (Co-investigators show commitment by signature on the Cover Page.)

Attachments to Application:
(1) Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s) biosketch(s) (2 pages each) for each copy of proposal.
(2) Animal and/or biosafety approvals (if available). (Funds will not be released unless approved Animal Care and Use Protocol certification statement received in Grants Office.) ONE COPY for original only.
(3) Completed Information Needed to Complete CRIS (Current Research Information System) Forms. ONE COPY for original only.