

**Valley Research Partnership (VRP)
Program in Research Collaboration and Training Guidelines
Round Six
Issued December 2020**

Purpose

Affiliates of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix have formed the Valley Research Partnership (VRP) to catalyze and support collaborative research and research training amongst partnering institutions. The Partners are: UArizona College of Medicine – Phoenix (COM-P), Banner University Medical Center – Phoenix (BUMC-P), Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH), and Valleywise Health. The goal of this program is to develop cross-institutional research collaborations to enhance discovery, extramural research funding, accelerate career development, and improve healthcare.

The program aims to:

- Encourage development of innovative, interdisciplinary, collaborative projects, including multidisciplinary team approaches to issues in human health.
- Help early stage investigators with proposal development, develop successful careers and collaborations, and provide research support.
- Encourage established investigators to invigorate research programs with new collaborative and innovative lines of investigation.
- Promote faculty career development by linking established mentors to early stage investigators.
- Provide resources to engage trainees (medical students/graduate students/residents/fellows/post-docs) in significant biomedical research projects.
- Provide balanced, timely, merit-driven peer review of VRP applications and support its fundamental value for fund allocation.
- Assess program impact by measuring external funding success, publications; trainee placement, new, viable research programs; institutional partnerships; and healthcare outcomes.

Mechanisms

P1 Trainee Projects: Proposals with an eligible faculty Principal Investigators (PI) and a metro Phoenix medical/graduate student or resident/fellow/post-doc mentee (Maximum \$5,000 for medical students over one year. Maximum \$10,000 for other applicants over one-two years).

Eligibility

Round Six, PI eligible for this program include current faculty members as defined by the VRP partner institutions at BUMC-P, Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, PCH, Valleywise Health and the College. The VRP partners provide a list of potentially eligible PI for publication by VRP Administration. These lists are located on the [VRP website](#) to confirm investigator eligibility. Ultimate eligibility is determined by each participating VRP partner.

P1 Trainee Projects require an eligible faculty PI from a VRP partner institution and a metro Phoenix-based mentee who actively holds the status of medical student, graduate student, resident, fellow or post-doc. The mentee must be eligible for the duration of the award.

Medical Student Scholarly Projects require a UArizona College of Medicine - Phoenix faculty member who is a Scholarly Project Mentor, and a current UArizona College of Medicine – Phoenix medical student. The mentee must be eligible for the duration of the award.

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Application and Award Restrictions

P1 mentees may submit one application per cycle. Mentors may submit multiple applications with different mentees. A P1 mentee is limited to one lifetime award in that capacity.

Funding Restrictions

- *Allowable Costs*
 - Equipment and/or supplies, reagents, resources, and procedures not otherwise available and necessary for the project
 - IT hardware and software costs
 - Mentee travel to a conference to present the work. (Medical Student travel is only allowable if funding is not available through Academic Affairs, hence requests for travel should be accompanied with appropriate approval from the SP Director.)
- *Prohibited costs.*
 - Indirect or Overhead Costs
 - All other expenses are prohibited
- *Administrative Service Charge.*
 - *The College charges a 2% service charge to all expenses. Work with your Director of Operations to make sure your budget incorporates this fee.*

P1 Dates and Submission Procedure

- Request for Proposals (RFP) issued 18 December 2020
- **The application must be submitted by 5PM MST on 12 February 2021** through the submission portal on the VRP website at phoenixmed.arizona.edu/vrp. **Late applications will not be accepted**, please email PBC-VRPGrants@email.arizona.edu if confirmation of receipt is not received within 2 hours.
- Review Spring 2021
- Awards Announced June 2021
- Earliest anticipated awards July 1, 2021
- Forms & guidelines are available at <http://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/vrp>
- Questions may be addressed to
Research Office-VRP Program Administration
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix
Telephone: 602-827-3630
Email: PBC-VRPGrants@email.arizona.edu

Application Process

P1 application

The application is limited to two pages and should include the following:

1. Cover Page with approval signatures, not included in the two-page limit
2. Project Title
3. Research Problem
4. Hypothesis
5. Aims

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6. Project Impact and Outcomes
7. Next Steps
8. How an Award Would Facilitate the Trainee's Career
9. Mentoring and Career Development Plans
10. NIH Biosketches for the mentor and mentee, not included in the two-page limit
11. Budget and Budget Justification, not included in two-page limit

The application must be submitted by 5PM MST on 12 February 2021 through the submission portal on the VRP website at phoenixmed.arizona.edu/vrp. Late submissions will not be accepted. Templates for 1, 10, and 11 can be found on the [VRP website](#).

Interested medical students seeking support for their scholarly projects should work with the Director of Scholarly Projects (Dr. Matt McEchron) prior to submitting an application. In lieu of items 2-9, please submit your project prospectus. Items 1, 10, & 11 are still required.

Applicant and Awardee Responsibilities

Regulatory Requirements. Local approval for human and vertebrate animal studies and other regulatory obligations are not required at time of submission, but must be initiated immediately following award notification. All approvals must be obtained within 3 months of the award start date set by VRP Administration after communication with PIs. If approvals are not obtained within the required time frame, the award may be revoked or deferred unless VRP Administration receives an acceptable justification for the delay.

Application. The applicants must secure and complete all application components prior to submission. Applications that are incomplete at the time of submission/application deadline will not be considered further.

Required Support Letters. Applicants must obtain all required letters of support before timely application submission.

Publication. Awardees must cite funding from VRP in all relevant publications and presentations.

Closeout. Awardees provide final financial and progress reports to VRP, and close out human and vertebrate animal studies with appropriate authorities.

Conference. VRP awardees will be expected to attend and present their work at the annual ABRC/Flinn/VRP Research Conference. Noncompliance may affect investigator eligibility for future rounds of funding.

Membership on Scientific Review Committees. VRP Administration expects all past awardees to participate in the scientific review of future applications if necessary.

P1 Mentors. Changes in P1 mentors may be permitted subject to justification and review by VRP administration. In these cases, the newly identified mentor needs to demonstrate competence in the project that was initially approved for funding and commit to the same obligations.

Biostatistical Support. All studies requiring biostatistical support should utilize the services provided by the COM-P. More information can be found at phoenixmed.arizona.edu/research.