

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GRANTS
GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS (GRASP) INTERNATIONAL
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AFFAIRS
2026

Purpose:

- To promote collaborative research and capacity building between LLUH faculty and professionals who have post-baccalaureate degrees and are employed by LLU Global Campuses or international SDA hospitals, medical centers, medical schools or universities.
- To encourage faculty to collaborate with international SDA researchers in the design of innovative, interdisciplinary research in pioneering research projects.
- To develop grant preparation skills and generate preliminary data for subsequent extramural proposals.

Description:

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| • Maximum award per proposal: | \$75,000 |
| • Term of award: | 24 months |
| • Number of awards for 2026: | TBD |
| • Release of “Notice of Funding Opportunity” (NOFO) | Monday, May 19, 2025 |
| • Letter of Enquiry (LOE) | Friday, June 20, 2025* |
| • Mandatory virtual orientation for GRASP Intl | Monday, August 11, 2025** |
| • Letter of Intent must be submitted no later than | Friday, August 29, 2025*** |
| • An initial budget + biosketches of all Non-LLUH key personnel must be submitted to the LLUH co-PI by | Friday, November 21, 2025**** |
| • The LLUH co-PI will submit complete budget + biosketches of all key personnel to ORA | Monday, December 1, 2025***** |
| • External co-PI submits draft of application to LLUH co-PI | Monday, December 1, 2025***** |
| • LLUH co-PI submits application to ORA | Friday, December 19, 2025***** |
| • Awards announced | March, 2026 |
| • Earliest project start date: | Friday, April 1, 2026 |

Intent to Apply and Application Process: *The investigator from a LLU Global Campus or an international SDA institution is responsible for initiating the process by sending a “Letter of Enquiry” (i.e. one-page abstract, biosketch, and authorization from their institution) by June 20, 2025. ***There is no specific topic for this cycle.*** The Office of Research Affairs (ORA) will determine the eligibility of the interested investigator. **If approved, an investigator from LLUH will be identified; and the two investigators, hereafter co-PIs, will be responsible for completing the rest of the process. They must complete the mandatory virtual orientation by August 11, 2025. *** The Letter of Intent must be submitted by completing the [Letter of Intent form](#), ***including the signatures of the PI from LLUH and an e-consent from the collaborating PI***, and submitting it to Research Alliances via email by August 29, 2025. An electronic record will be created by ORA into which the application will be loaded. ****The international co-PI must submit an initial draft of the budget including the bio sketches of all key persons to the LLUH co-PI by November 21, 2025. *****The LLUH co-PI must submit a draft of the total budget + biosketches to the ORA by December 1, 2025. *****The international co-PI must submit all components of the application to the LLUH co-PI for review and edits by December 1, 2025. *****All components of the application must be submitted electronically to the ORA by December 19, 2025. An e-copy of a fully executed institutional [transmittal form](#), signed by the co-PIs, department heads, and deans of respective co-PIs, is required by the application deadline.

All enquiries and submissions must be sent to Wesley James, Research Alliance Specialist, wjames@llu.edu

Eligibility:

- A. Two co-Principal Investigators – one from LLUH campus, and the other from an LLU Global Campus or an international SDA hospital, medical center, college or university, must direct the project.

- B. One co-PI must have an LLUH faculty appointment that meets the [PI Eligibility](#) policy. An investigator's primary appointment will be the one used to determine eligibility. The other co-PI must be authorized by the partnering institution and approved by the Office of the Vice President for Research Affairs prior to the LOI phase. Additional individuals may provide support as co-investigators, but no more than two Principal Investigators may be named on an application.
- C. The co-PI from the partnering institution must have more control of the project and be responsible for the completion of the project, but will report to the co-PI at LLUH who will have a mentoring role.
- D. Studies must be conducted at facilities on the Loma Linda campus or on approved sites of the international collaborator. Supplies or reagents from other places are allowed.
- E. At least one of the co-PIs must have published at least one peer-reviewed article during the past year (to be included in the biosketch). Either member of the team may author this publication.
- F. Individuals who have received prior awards through a GRASP mechanism may apply for GRASP International support provided that *for each prior GRASP award* they: 1) Have published, or had accepted for publication, one or more manuscripts in a peer-reviewed journal. This publication must acknowledge funding supported by the LLUH GRASP mechanism, or 2) have submitted one or more applications for extramural funding on which they are listed as PI or co-investigator. The publication of a manuscript or grant application submission must have occurred after receiving the prior GRASP award. This requirement applies regardless of whether the proposed partnership is the same as previously or represents a new team.
- G. Teams that submitted unsuccessful GRASP International applications may resubmit a revised application. The revised application must include an "Introduction to the Revised Application," of up to one page that describes the changes made to the proposal.
- H. While individuals or teams may submit more than one application per cycle, no more than one award will be made to any investigator. Further, if an investigator submits two applications with two different co-PIs, only one would be eligible for an award. Individuals can serve as co-PI on only one active GRASP International award at a time unless the VPRA approves the request.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Awards will be based primarily on scientific merit, including significance, innovation, and originality of approach, technical merit, and consistency with institutional interests and goals. The quality of international collaboration, the co-PI leadership plan, justification of the budget, and a plan to apply to external identified sponsors will also be considered. The inclusion of preliminary data supporting the proposed study is recommended. In the absence of preliminary data, strong literature support for the planned study is required. The focus will be on funding high-impact, paradigm-shifting, innovative projects, and potential for future funding. Consequently, the application must clearly describe the potential impact of the project on the field and highlight its innovative elements. Applications are expected to appropriately address issues of [rigor and reproducibility](#) (see [Researcher's Alert](#) for more information). Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of investigators selected to include those with extramural funding and service on federal grant review panels. A subset of the panel with expertise in social, behavioral and qualitative research may review applications focused on such studies. Consistent with their scientific merit, the panel will attempt to include as many schools and collaborating institutions among the awards as possible. To the extent possible that it can be maintained in the review process, applications will be kept confidential, however, the abstracts of funded projects will be published.

Eligibility format for previous GRASP International recipients (one page for each previous GRASP International awardee, to be submitted with LOI form): If one or both of the applicants is a previous GRASP International recipient, provide the following for each previous GRASP International award.

- Published papers:
 - Provide citations for one or more articles that were published or accepted subsequent to the previous GRASP International award and that acknowledges GRASP International funding support from LLUH.
 - Provide a PDF of or hyperlink to the article(s).

- Extramural grant applications:
 - LLeRA number
 - Principal Investigator
 - Title
 - Sponsor name
 - Date of submission
 - Amount
 - Current status (i.e., funded, pending, scored, not discussed, etc.)

Application Format: Text must be 11 point or larger with six lines per inch and margins of at least one-half inch. The sections identified below may not exceed their indicated page limits. Headers, footers, and appendices are not allowed. The following sections are expected:

Title Page (one page): Include the title of the project, names of both principal investigators, their contact information (including institutional e-mail, phone numbers, WhatsApp Id, Zoom Id, and name of department or center, and collaborating institution), a list of all key personnel, and total dollars requested.

Abstract & Key Words (up to 30 lines of text): The abstract should briefly state the significance and goals of the proposed study and summarize the work to be accomplished. It should provide sufficient information to assign the application to appropriate reviewers. Four to six key words are required to identify the general area of research and the principle elements of the study.

Biographical Sketches (up to five pages per investigator): Provide biosketches of the co-Principal Investigators and other key personnel in the format provided below (see the Biographical Sketch Format Page and Biographical Sketch Sample at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>).

Budget (template generated in LLeRA): Design a complete budget for up to 24 months of support. Identify amounts for each co-PI – expenditures for supplies and miscellaneous costs. The co-PIs or other key personnel are not entitled to salaries; and the co-PIs are expected to commit a minimum of 10% effort to the project. **Only non-faculty salaries and wages are permitted up to a maximum of \$45,000 for all personnel.** All salaries must be based on local wage scale, and a copy of the wage scale must be provided for justification. GRASP International funds may not be used for equipment costing \$5,000 or more (unless justified). The total budget cannot exceed \$75,000. Indirect costs are not allowed.

Budget Justification (one page): Indicate the purpose of supplies, support personnel and other costs such as equipment exceeding \$5,000, and travel expenses. The allocation of funds is based on where the study is conducted, and cost estimates must be provided for equipment that are requested.

Research Plan (nine pages for new application, ten pages for a revised application): Provide information for the five subsections described below:

- A. **Introduction to Revised Application** (one page, required only for revised applications): Summarize the substantial additions, deletions and changes to your application. In addition, concisely address each of the concerns raised by the previous reviewers.
- B. **Specific Aims** (one page): “State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed.” *(Text taken from NIH instructions)*
- C. **Leadership Plan** (one page): Both co-PIs must make major contributions to the project with each individual taking responsibility for approximately half of the study activities. Indicate the scope of work for each co-PI. State how the co-PIs will coordinate their activities, resolve problems, and allocate responsibilities for management and reporting.

- D. Background** (one page): Describe the background leading to the present application. State the significance and usefulness of the proposed research to unsolved problems in science, healthcare, public health, society, the environment, industry, agriculture, etc.
- E. Research Strategy** (limited to six pages): A total of six pages is allowed for the subsections of Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Suggested allocations of this space for those three subsections are noted below. *(Text taken from NIH instructions)*
- 1. Significance** (suggested length, ½ page): “Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capacity, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.”
 - 2. Innovation** (suggested length, ½ page): “Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.”
 - 3. Approach** (suggested length, 5 pages): “Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. . . Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans, as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of high-risk aspects of the proposed work. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.”
- F. Future Directions** (one page): Briefly describe the future directions to be taken with this project, assuming that this initial phase is successful. For example, describe grants to be applied for (including mechanisms, i.e., R21, K award, etc.) and how the preliminary data obtained in this study will enhance those applications. Also, if this pilot data will allow design of a larger study, briefly describe the anticipated study design for this larger study.
- G. References:** Include references that demonstrate the need for this research, establish feasibility for hypotheses and procedures, and provide support for the approach. Include titles and authors.

Compliance: When the proposal involves human embryonic stem cells, ionizing radiation, laboratory animals, human subjects, or other elements that require approval by an oversight committee, integrate the descriptions into the Research Strategy section. If the proposal is awarded, separate applications must be made to the appropriate oversight committee *before* the work can begin, e.g., Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (SCRO).

Letters of Support: Letters of support from key personnel and consultants are encouraged.

Final Report: Extensions of the project period will follow NIH guidance. Within 30 days of the end of the project period, a final report is due. It should include accomplishments, significant results, manuscripts prepared for publication, and plans for extramural grant applications. Send final reports to rapostaward@llu.edu, and researchaffairs@llu.edu

General Information & Application Guidance: Wesley James, Research Alliance Specialist, wjames@llu.edu