

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTRAMURAL GRANTS
GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS (GRASP) INTERNATIONAL
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AFFAIRS
2022

Purpose:

- To promote collaborative research and capacity building between LLU faculty and professionals who have post-baccalaureate degrees and are employed by international SDA hospitals, medical centers, colleges 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 2022: | TBD |
| • Letter of Intent must be submitted no later than | Friday, March 26, 2021 |
| • Deadline for submission: | Monday, September 20, 2021 |
| • Earliest project start date: | Tuesday, January 4, 2022 |

Eligibility:

- A. Two co-Principal Investigators – one from LLU campus, and the other from an international SDA hospital, medical center, college or university, must direct the project.
- B. One co-PI must have an LLU faculty appointment that meets the [PI Eligibility](#) policy. An investigator’s primary appointment will be the one used to determine eligibility. The other 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 PI from the partnering institution must have more control of the project, but will report to the PI at LLU who will have a mentoring role and be responsible for the completion of the project.
- 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 LLU 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 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.

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 PI leadership plan, justification of the budget, and potential for future funding 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. 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 recipients (one page for each previous GRASP awardee, to be submitted with LOI form): If one or both of the applicants is a previous GRASP recipient, provide the following for each previous GRASP award.

- Published papers:
 - Provide citations for one or more articles that were published or accepted subsequent to the previous GRASP award and that acknowledges GRASP funding support from LLU.
 - 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, Skype 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 salaries, supplies, and miscellaneous costs. **Only non-faculty salaries and wages are permitted, however co-PIs are expected to commit a minimum of 10% effort to the project.** GRASP International funds may not be used for equipment costing \$5,000 or more, travel expenses, or indirect costs. The total budget may not exceed \$75,000 and must be justifiable. Consult with Wesley James, wjames@llu.edu / researchalliances@llu.edu

Budget Justification (one page): Indicate the purpose of supplies, support personnel and other costs.

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 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 PI. State how the 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. **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: No 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

Intent to Apply and Application Process: The PI from LLU is responsible for initiating and coordinating the whole process. Intent to submit an application must be done by completing the [Letter of Intent form](#), *including the signatures of the PI from LLU and an e-consent from the collaborating PI*, and submitting it to Research Alliances via email (researchalliances@llu.edu) by March 26, 2021. Questions should be directed to Wesley James. An electronic record will be created into which the application will be loaded. Applications must be submitted electronically through the LLeRA Proposal Development module by September 20, 2021. An e-copy of a fully executed institutional [transmittal form](#), signed by the PI, department head, and deans of respective co-PIs, is required by the application deadline.

Contacts:

General Information, Technical and Application Guidance: Wesley James, Research Alliance Specialist, wjames@llu.edu / researchalliances@llu.edu