**MU PCOR Small Project Awards < $20,000**

**Building Patient Centered Outcomes Research Capacity**

**Proposal Submission Process**

1. Discuss project with David Mehr or Robin Kruse
2. Identify project mentor (mentor may focus on PCOR) and co-investigators (two or more disciplines preferred). Graduate students are eligible to apply as Co-Principal Investigator with their mentor.
3. We strongly encourage the submission of a one page summary with aims, outcomes and stakeholder engagement plan for preview prior to submitting the proposal to ensure project is compatible with MU PCOR Small Project criteria.
4. Schedule time to attend MU PCOR Patient Advisory Board meeting to discuss project with patients and caregivers to receive stakeholder feedback. Contact Lynne Lawrence ([LawrenceLD@missouri.edu](mailto:LawrenceLD@missouri.edu)), MU PCOR Center Coordinator, to arrange. Principal Investigators must meet with the Patient Advisory Board prior to proposal submission.
5. Complete application materials (see Materials Required for Submission below) and email a copy of application materials to (1) Ieshia Griffith ([GriffithI@missouri.edu](mailto:GriffithI@missouri.edu)) and (2) Lynne Lawrence ([LawrenceLD@health.missouri.edu](mailto:LawrenceLD@health.missouri.edu)).

**Materials required for submission**

* Small project submission form (described on page 2, includes budget)
* NIH-style biosketches for investigators (up to 4 pages each)
* For revised submissions, an introduction (described on page 3)
* Specific aims (described on page 3)
* Research plan (described on page 3)

**Review and Funding Process**

* 1. Upon submission, proposals are sent to 3 reviewers for evaluation and comment (review criteria are on page 4).
  2. Review committee provides comments and recommendations, which are forwarded to David Mehr.
  3. Depending on the reviews, the proposal will either be returned to the Principal Investigator for revision or sent to the Steering Committee for further review and a funding decision.
  4. David Mehr will notify the principal investigator of project status.
  5. Projects may be funded up to $20,000.
* Investigators who receive funding will be expected to present study results at a MU PCOR seminar and to the MU PCOR Patient Advisory Board.

**Allowable Budget Expenses**

1. **Personnel:** 
   1. For faculty on 9-month appointments only, up to $6,000 of summer salary is an allowable expense.
   2. Compensation for graduate student/research assistants.
   3. Routine payment for data entry, field work, transcription, duplication costs, etc.
2. **Patient and Family Stakeholders:** participation compensation is allowed, preferably by check.
3. **Travel:**
   1. Travel to present research results are allowed and encouraged.
   2. Routine travel is allowable at the lowest round-trip fare. Lodging and meal expense is allowable.
4. **Equipment:** Applicant should establish that such equipment is not reasonably available elsewhere for the proposed project and is critical to completion of the project.

**Non-Allowable Budget Expenses**

1. Food/consumable supplies
2. Salary for 12 month faculty is not an allowable expense.

**MU PCOR Small Project Awards < $20,000**

**Submission Form**

**1. Project title:**

**2. Principal investigator(s)\* and qualifications (degrees, very brief description of experience and expertise):**

**3. Principal investigator(s)\* department:**

**4. Project mentor and qualifications (required):**

**5. Co-investigators (recommended but not required) and qualifications:**

**6. Institutions involved:**

**7. Projected start and end dates:**

**8. Itemized budget:** **(Recommend including projected travel for project presentation/dissemination)**

**9. Budget justification:**

\*Graduate students must be Co-Principal Investigators with their mentor.

**INTRODUCTION** *(Allowed only on resubmissions, limit to 1 page)*

Summarize significant changes in application since previous submission.

**ABSTRACT**

Summary of the research that will be performed *(Limit to 1/2 page)*.

**SPECIFIC AIMS** *(Limit to 1 page)*

In this section, concisely state the goals of the proposed research. Describe the study design, the research questions (hypotheses), the comparisons to be evaluated and the outcomes that will be studied, and describe the anticipated impact of study results on clinical or patient decision making and on patient outcomes.

**RESEARCH PLAN** *(Limit 6 pages single-spaced content for sections A through G below)*

1. **Background**

Describe the degree to which the condition imposes a significant burden on the health of individuals and/or populations. (Criterion 1, review criteria information follows the research strategy outline)

1. **Significance**

Describe how the specific aims relate to the significance of the proposed research study.

Describe how the results of the study would likely improve health care and outcomes. (Criterion 2)

Describe the study’s level of patient-centeredness. (Criterion 4)

1. **Study Design or Approach**

Describe the research strategy or methodological approach.

Demonstrate the study's technical merit. (Criterion 3)

1. **Project Milestones**

Describe the projected outcomes and clearly articulate the proposed goals to be accomplished during the course of the research study.

1. **Patient Population**

Describe the study population with respect to age, gender, race, ethnicity, and clinical status as appropriate for the study.

1. **Research Team and Environment**

Describe the capabilities of the research team to accomplish the goals of the proposed research project, and the appropriateness of the research environment to conduct the study.

1. **Research Engagement Plan**

Describe the plan to engage patients and stakeholders meaningfully in all phases of the proposed research or how the proposed project will develop this level of engagement if the proposed project is pilot work for the development of a larger project. (Criterion 5)

**H. Skills to be gained** *(Limit to 1/2 page)*

Describe the skills in comparative effectiveness research and/or patient-centered outcomes research that you plan to acquire during the project, and the activities that you plan to acquire them (see list on last page).

**I. References** cited in the application *(Limit to one page)*

**Review Criteria**

|  |
| --- |
| **Criterion 1. Impact of the condition on the health of individuals and populations**  The proposal addresses the following questions:   * Is the condition or disease associated with a significant burden in the US population, in terms of prevalence, mortality, morbidity, individual suffering, or loss of productivity? * Alternatively, does the condition or disease impose a significant burden on a smaller number of people who have a rare disease? * Does the proposal include a particular emphasis on patients with one or more chronic condition? |
| **Criterion 2. Potential for the study to improve health care and outcomes**  The proposal has the potential to lead to meaningful improvement in the quality and efficiency of care and to improvements in outcomes that are important to patients. It addresses the following questions:   * Does the research question address a critical gap in current knowledge as noted in systematic reviews, guideline development efforts, or previous research prioritizations? * Has it been identified as important by patient, caregiver, or clinician groups? * Do wide variations in practice patterns suggest current clinical uncertainty? * Is the research novel or innovative in its methods or approach, in the population being studied, or in the intervention being evaluated, in ways that make it likely to improve care? * Do preliminary studies indicate potential for a sizeable benefit of the intervention relative to current practice? How likely is it that positive findings could be disseminated quickly and affect changes in current practice?   **Criterion 3. Technical merit**  The proposal has the technical merit to ensure that the study goals are met. It includes:   * A clear research plan with rigorous methods and key milestones clearly articulated * A research team with necessary expertise, and an appropriate project organizational structure * A research environment sufficient to support the conduct of the work with appropriate resources * A diverse study population with respect to age, gender, race, ethnicity, and clinical status as appropriate for research * A focus on a defined population for whom effectiveness information is particularly needed |
| **Criterion 4. Patient-centeredness**  The proposal demonstrates patient-centeredness at every stage of the research. It addresses the following questions:   * Is the research focused on questions that affect outcomes of specific interest to patients and their caregivers? * Does the research address one or more of the key questions mentioned in PCORI’s definition of patient-centered outcomes research? * How credible are claims that engaged patients and stakeholders will exert meaningful influence on the design and conduct of the research, to ensure patient-centeredness of the questions and outcomes addressed? |
| **Criterion 5. Patient and stakeholder engagement**  The proposal integrates patients and stakeholders in the development of the research plan and in key elements of conducting the research. It addresses the following questions:   * Does the proposal describe how patients and stakeholders were or will be identified and engaged in the research? * Are the roles of patients and key stakeholders significant in formulating the study’s research questions, hypotheses and design and in the study’s conduct and dissemination of results? * Are the roles proposed for patients and stakeholders in any planned dissemination or implementation plans meaningful and likely to be effective? * If engagement is not applicable to the proposed research, does the application justify why it is not? |

**Skills specific to Comparative Effectiveness Research or Patient-Centered Outcomes Research**

Stakeholder engagement

Identifying stakeholder groups

Meaningful participation of stakeholders in study design, conduct, and dissemination

Determining outcomes that matter to patients

Structuring advisory boards

Selecting and training stakeholders who participate

Retaining stakeholders

Working with support groups

Supporting interdisciplinary collaboration

Building an interdisciplinary team

Common understanding of roles and vocabulary

Negotiation/conflict management

Research designs

Comparative effectiveness research

Patient-centered outcomes research

Pragmatic trials

Developing proposals for PCORI

Dissemination plan

Familiarity with PCORI review criteria

Addressing PCOR questions

Paying lay participants

Review process and scoring

Specifying engagement of patients and other stakeholders

Disseminating PCOR research results

Involving support groups/condition-specific societies

Presenting results to a lay audience

Role of stakeholders

Other issues

Mining the PCORI web site for useful information

PCOR and CER funding opportunities

When to include patients in your IRB application