

Rackham Research Endowment 2021 Request for Proposals

Introduction

The Rackham Research Endowment was established at MSU in 1937 with a generous gift from the estate of Horace Rackham. Its broad purpose is to support research in agriculture and natural resources (focal areas of MSU AgBioResearch). The fund is administered by a four-member Board of Governors, whose philosophy is to provide seed funding for early career researchers so that they may position themselves to obtain significant external funding and sustain promising research programs. Board members include George Smith (representing AgBioResearch), Nailah Orr, Gary Schluckbier, and David Thompson.

Research Areas Targeted for Funding

Proposals to the Rackham Foundation must be relevant to agriculture, natural resources or related fields and address any of following priority research areas 1) climate change, 2) resilient agriculture and food systems, including impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the supply chain, 3) antimicrobial resistance, 4) invasive species or 5) emerging environmental contaminants. A major goal of Rackham Research Endowment projects funded in 2021 is to generate sufficient preliminary results to provide a solid foundation for research teams to compete for major extramural funding opportunities.

Eligibility

Faculty holding the rank of Assistant Professor at time of proposal submission and who are affiliated with MSU AgBioResearch or the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are eligible to apply for funding.

Award Size and Budget Information

Investigators may request up to \$50,000 in funding per year for three years. Given financial challenges associated with the pandemic, the Rackham Board is emphasizing support for graduate training in the 2021 grants program. Hence, inclusion of graduate student support in project budget is required. Indirect costs are not allowable under Rackham Endowment projects.

Timeline

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| • January 4, 2021 | Call for proposals |
| • February 15, 2021 | Proposals due by 5:00PM |
| • March 15, 2021 | Notification of finalists |
| • April 5-9, 2021 | Oral presentations by finalists |
| • April 16, 2021 | Notification of awards |
| • May 1, 2021 | Funding available (initiation of projects) |
| • May 1, 2022 | Year one progress report due |
| • May 1, 2023 | Year two progress report |
| • May 1, 2024 | Final report due |

All proposals will be reviewed by members of the Rackham Foundation Board of Governors or their designate for scientific merit, relevance to the AgBioResearch mission and extramural funding potential. Finalists will be invited to deliver an oral presentation (via Zoom) to Rackham Board of Governors outlining proposed research and impact prior to final funding decisions. In addition to annual written progress reports, funded investigators will provide an annual update on project progress at Rackham Board of Governors meeting. Availability of funding in years 2 and 3 is

contingent upon compliance with reporting guidelines and significant progress in meeting project objectives.

All funds awarded are to be spent by termination date.

Proposal Submission

Proposals should be submitted to winansco@msu.edu by 5 pm on February 15, 2021. **Additionally, a Proposal Development (PD) document must be routed through the MSU Research Administration/Kuali Coeus system.**

Formatting Guidelines:

All proposals should be single spaced using Arial 11 pt. font, 0.5 inch margins and double spacing between paragraphs and must adhere to guidelines for proposal length outlined below. Project summary provided in the proposal at time of submission must be written in lay terms familiar to individuals outside of the field of study. Proposals that fail to adhere to guidelines will be returned without review. All proposals should be submitted as a single pdf document containing the components listed below.

Proposal Components:

*Note – Items 2-6 cannot exceed four pages in length.

- 1) Cover Page – 1 page (use cover page attached)
 - a. Project Title
 - b. Principal Investigator(s), Title(s), and e-mail address(es)
 - c. Academic Units Involved
 - d. Date Submitted
 - e. Total Duration of Project
 - f. Total Funds Requested
 - g. Project Summary (limit to 250 words)
- 2) Problem statement and relevance to program priorities listed above.
- 3) Objectives
- 4) Approach and feasibility, including scientific foundation for work proposed
- 5) Anticipated results and impact
- 6) Specific plans for leveraging project results towards future extramural funding and description of importance of proposed studies to future funding potential. Timeline for grant submission and target programs should be included.
- 7) Timeline
- 8) Budget (use budget form attached)
- 9) Brief budget justification
- 10) Literature cited
- 11) Team qualifications (one-page vitae for each project member outlining qualifications to complete proposed research)

* Items 2-6 should not exceed four pages in length