Seed Funding Opportunity

The Center for SMART Health is delighted to announce the 2024 seed funding opportunity, specifically seeking proposals that emphasize 1) the use of data analytics related to local health systems/hospitals, such as Boca Raton Regional Hospital and Network and Memorial Regional Hospital, or 2) focus on basic science research with the eventual goal of technology transfer through collaboration with industry partners. This initiative is dedicated to supporting collaborative projects led by multidisciplinary teams of researchers from colleges of Engineering and Computer Science, Medicine, and Nursing. Our aim is to foster research activities that apply engineering and computer science technologies and/or informatics to advance patient-centered healthcare and disease prevention. This includes the innovative use of data analytics within local health systems and the promotion of technology transfer through academia-industry collaboration, leading to practical healthcare solutions.

TIMELINE

- Proposal Submission Date: **5 pm, May 10, 2024**
- Award Announcement: **May 31, 2024**
- Grant support duration: **June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025**

DETAILS AND GUIDELINES

- Proposals for collaborative projects involving two or more of the Engineering and Computer Science, Medicine, and Nursing Colleges are highly encouraged. These projects should either utilize data from Boca Raton Regional Hospital and Network and Memorial Regional Hospital to inform their research or focus on the technology transfer from basic science discoveries into practical applications through collaboration with industry partners.
- Faculty involvement in multiple proposals is permitted, though one may serve as lead Principal Investigator (PI) on only one application.
- Faculty may participate in multiple proposals but may only serve as lead PI on one application.
- Funding allocations, which are expected to be within a maximum range of $25K, may cover stipends for student researchers or senior personnel, materials, supplies, small equipment (under $5,000), and costs related to conference presentations. No indirect costs are permitted.
- Deliverables include:

- A 2-page final report on the activities, significant results, and achievements, with a focus on either the integration and analysis of data from local hospitals or on technology transfer through industry collaboration.
- A seminar to present the activities and outcomes to the Center's affiliated faculty and the FAU community.

PRIORITY will be given to scientifically meritorious proposals focusing on:

- **Track 1: Data Analytics:** This track is dedicated to proposals that leverage hospital-derived data analytic to inform research that advances patient-centered health care and disease prevention. Projects under this track should demonstrate how the innovative use of hospital-derived data analytics can lead to significant improvements in healthcare outcomes. Proposals should focus on collaborative projects between two or more departments among the Engineering and Computer Science, Medicine, and Nursing Colleges. The use of engineering and computer science smart technologies and informatics should be central to the proposal, with a clear plan for how hospital data will be integrated and analyzed to achieve the project's objectives.

- **Track 2: Technology Transfer:** This track encourages proposals that aim to transfer technology from basic science to practical healthcare solutions through collaboration with industry partners. The focus is on projects that can lead to the development, commercialization, and practical application of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies in patient care. The proposals should involve multidisciplinary collaborations across Engineering and Computer Science, Medicine, and Nursing Colleges, with a strong emphasis on academia-industry partnerships. Projects should clearly articulate the technology to be developed or transferred, the role of each partner, and the pathway to commercialization or clinical application.

APPLICATION PACKET: The application packet should be a single PDF file and follow the specific formatting and content guidelines reminiscent of those used by the NIH or NSF.

- <u>Cover page</u> (1 page): Include the project title, list of Principal Investigators (PIs) with their ranks, colleges/departments, contact information, roles of each PI, and the project timeline. Clearly state the track to which the proposal is being submitted: Data Analytics or Technology Transfer.
- <u>Narrative</u> (up to 5 pages, excluding references): This section should include:

  - Specific Aims or Summary Page (1/2 page): Outline the project's main objectives and goals, clearly indicating how they align with the chosen track.

  - Detailed Description of the Research Strategy (4 pages): Discuss the significance, innovation/intellectual merit, and approach of the project. This should include:

    - The importance of the problem and how the project addresses a critical barrier to progress in the field.

    - How the project is innovative within the context of the selected track.

- - o   A detailed approach, including methodologies and analyses, to accomplish the project's specific aims.

  - Plan for Sustainability (1/2 page):

    - o   For the Data Analytics track, outline plans for securing external funding to sustain and expand upon the research efforts.

    - o   For the Technology Transfer track, detail the strategy for future external funding, including commercialization plans and potential for industry partnerships or licensing.

- NSF or NIH-style bio for all key personnel.
- Itemized budget and justification (1 page): Provide a detailed budget that includes justification for each item, ensuring alignment with the project's objectives and the sustainability plan for the selected track.
- Plan for acquiring IACUC or IRB approval, if necessary (up to 2 pages): Detail the process for obtaining necessary approvals, emphasizing how ethical considerations will be managed.
- Risks, subject protection plan, recruitment plan, if applicable: Address any potential risks associated with the project, including plans for subject protection and recruitment strategies.

SUBMISSIONS: Proposal should be submitted to smarthealth@eng.fau.edu by **5 pm EST** on **May 10, 2024**. Proposal will be reviewed by a committee of peers.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact smarthealth@eng.fau.edu.