



The Pregnancy Foundation Bridge Funding Award

The Pregnancy Foundation of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine is pleased to announce a new bridge grant. This award is made possible with generous support from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) Education Foundation. The Pregnancy Foundation Bridge Funding Award is designed to stabilize a research program of a promising physician scientist in the field of perinatal biology and medicine who has not been successful in obtaining independent research funding or who has a temporary lapse in funding. This award will be for a one-year period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Bridge funds are intended to enhance the likelihood of successful application for other funding opportunities by enabling ongoing research productivity and by ensuring that essential research personnel are not lost due to lapses in funding. Priority will be given to programs with a strong likelihood that the investigator will successfully garner independent external funding by the end of the award. The proposed research should address important problems in perinatal biology and medicine. Basic and translational research projects are encouraged. Women and under-represented minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants who have successfully completed a funded research training award (e.g. AAOGF/ABOG, AAOGF/MFM, BIRCWH, WRHR, RSDP, or other mentored training award) are encouraged to apply. The award will be for \$75,000 for one year. No indirect costs are allowed.

Successful candidates must agree to provide a progress report, and attend an annual retreat during the period of the award and/or immediately following the conclusion of the award. Successful candidates must also agree to respond to periodic requests for information regarding career development.

Eligibility:

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Investigators who are at the rank of Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology or above, who have successfully completed mentored research training or have previously had an R01 grant and who have applied for funding but who have not been successful in either obtaining or maintaining independent research funding may apply. Investigators with a K or any R award for the proposed period of bridge funding are not eligible. Assurance of adequate protected research time (a minimum of 50%) for the research project and a delineation of financial support provided by the applicant's department or institution will be important factors in considering applications.

Contact Information:

Applicants should send the application materials **electronically** by July 15, 2016, to Michelle DiVito, Pregnancy Foundation Scholarly Activities Committee Administrator at md2432@columbia.edu. Inquiries should be directed to Michelle DiVito, Telephone: (212) 305-2977.

Required Application Materials:

1. A six-page proposal (excluding references) written in abbreviated NIH grant style (1 page of Specific Aims, a 1 page statement of Background and Significance, 1 page of Preliminary Data, 2-3 pages of Experimental Design and Methods).
2. A cover letter from the applicant.
3. CV of the applicant that includes the funding record.
4. A letter of support from the Department Chair, which must include a clear statement of the protected research time available for the applicant, and detail any relevant mechanisms that will be in place to ensure the protection of candidate's training time.
5. A letter of support from the current or former Research Mentor(s), if applicable.
6. A personal statement that includes an explanation of the situation requiring bridge funds and the candidate's plan to obtain funding.
7. Copies of external reviewers' comments for any recent and relevant unsuccessful grant application, including a statement of the relative ranking of the application, and the applicant's response to the comments.
8. Budget and justification, including a brief statement of other financial resources available to the applicant.
9. Explanation of the outcome of any previous bridge fund award.

Applications are due July 15, 2016.

Funding decisions will be made by August 15, 2016.

Funding period will start retroactively on July 1, 2016.