Special Strategic Projects (SSP)

The Special Strategic Projects program facilitates and supports cross-institutional research collaborations, donor proposal development, supporting campus-wide initiatives such as the Precision Medicine Initiative, and outreach activities with other research development and research administration partners within UCSF, UC and across the nation.

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COVID-19 Rapid Response Pilot Grant Initiative [1]

In March and April, the RDO partnered with the UCSF Academic Senate, UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP) Block Grant through UCOP, UCSF-Gladstone Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), and the Chancellor’s COVID-19 Response Fund to develop, manage a funding competition and award funds for the COVID-19 Rapid Response Pilot Grant Initiative. The program offered two tiers: $5000 and $40,000, both for one-year projects. Initiative proposals were due on April 21st and we received 15 proposals to the Tier 1 ($5000) and 60 proposals to the Tier 2 ($40,000) initiatives. These received expert scientific review and discussion. The review committee delivered scores and comments as well as a slate of 10 proposals in each tier recommended for funding. The directors of the funding entities met and made funding decisions based on these recommendations, their agency priorities and available funding. Note that even more proposals were funded than the program originally had funding to support. Specifically, CFAR was able to support additional HIV-associated COVID-19 projects, and the RDO sought additional funding from the Chancellor to fund two additional $40,000 proposals. Collaboratively, we were able to award over $485,000 for 10 Tier 5K and 11 Tier 40K proposals.

See the full RFA here [1].
Recipients are listed here [2].

Tri-Institutional Partnership in Microbiome Research [3]

A new partnership between UC San Francisco (UCSF), UC Davis (UCD), and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), formed to encourage research collaboration focused broadly on understanding microbiomes. The aim of the initiative is to catalyze bold, synergistic, and potentially transformative collaborative research through joint seed grants and position the institutions favorably for follow-on extramural funding.

See the full RFA here [4].

Recipients are listed here [5].

Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation [6]

The RDO is excited to announce the 4th Annual Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation (MPPMI) seeks to fuel innovation in precision medicine by fostering creative, high risk, high impact team science projects supporting the precision medicine continuum. Precision medicine aims to harness vast amounts of biological and biomedical data? from basic molecular research to clinical, environmental, socioeconomic and mobile lifestyle data? and use it to define biological processes and disease mechanisms, to understand why different individuals respond differently to treatments, and to help guide more precise, predictive and preventative medicine. MPPMI invites proposals for our 2020 funding in three award categories, Seeding Bold Ideas, Transformative Integrated Research, and ELSI in Precision Medicine. These relatively short proposals are now due Monday, December 21, 2020. See the full 2020 RFA here [7].

George and Judy Marcus has generously provided funding to drive innovative and collaborative efforts between basic researchers and clinical or social/behavioral/population scientists, which are essential to making precision medicine a reality. Precision medicine aims to harness vast amounts of biological and biomedical data? from basic molecular research to clinical, environmental, socioeconomic and mobile lifestyle data? and use it to define biological processes and disease mechanisms, to understand why different individuals respond differently to treatments, and to help guide more precise, predictive and preventative medicine. The Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation will advance precision medicine at UCSF through events that actively motivate and foster collaborations, and through direct funding of innovative research projects.


UCSF Weill Institute Program in Neuroscience Innovation [12]

The UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, established by the extraordinary generosity of Joan and Sanford I. Weill, brings together world-class researchers with top-ranked physicians
to solve some of the most complex challenges in the human brain. The Institute’s **Program in Neuroscience Innovation** seeks to fuel innovation in neuroscience by fostering high risk, high impact, clinical/translational research through funding of highly meritorious research projects and supporting high-potential neuroscience researchers, both enabling investigators to pursue ideas that might not be easily fundable by other mechanisms. The target for this program is clinical and translational research focused on a broad spectrum of neuroscience challenges, including therapeutics, diagnostics, imaging technology, biomarker discovery/validation, and computational methods. We seek to support creative research projects that are focused on improved patient outcomes, especially those that employ concepts of convergent neuroscience research, crossing levels of analysis from genomics and imaging to behavior and implementation, and considering the dimension of time.

See the full RFA here [13].

Recipients are listed here [14].

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**Source URL:** https://rdo.ucsf.edu/special-strategic-projects-ssp

**Links**

[9] https://rdo.ucsf.edu/2017-awards-marcus-program-precision-medicine-innovation  
[14] https://rdo.ucsf.edu/2016-awards-announced-0  
[15] mailto:rdoinfo@ucsf.edu?subject=Special%20Strategic%20Projects