

# George and Judy Marcus Innovation Fund Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation 2019 Call for Proposals

Call for Proposals Announced	August 6, 2019
Proposal Application Deadline	Thursday, September 12, 2019
Announcement of Awards	By September 30, 2019 (target funding start - Nov 1)
Project Timeline	1 year

The **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. See MPPMI Program Overview on the [program website](#). The MPPMI invites proposals for our 2019 funding in three award categories, **Seeding Bold Ideas**, **Transformative Integrated Research**, and a new initiative - **ELSI in Precision Medicine**.

For proposals to the **Seeding Bold Ideas** and **Transformative Integrated Research** mechanisms, projects:

- should support translational precision medicine research with a strong basic science core;
- require two or more PIs (multi-PIs): at least one a basic scientist, and at least one a clinical, social/behavioral, implementation, computational or population scientist; existing or newly formed teams are both eligible;
- should employ high-risk thinking and approaches that will likely yield explicit “deliverables” (including discovery that the idea was wrong) after one year; and
- are encouraged to employ population health and health equity strategies or to integrate novel computational methods such as those that contribute to building the [Information Commons or Knowledge Network](#).

In addition, with the complexities of new clinical and research technologies (e.g., gene-editing) and with novel use of personal health data (e.g., collectively, in the ‘knowledge network’), we are also now faced with new and unprecedented ethical, legal, social implication (ELSI), implementation, and policy matters. In order to fully realize the vision of Precision Medicine, innovative research addressing such social science issues is critical. To that end, we are offering a new grant mechanism within the Marcus Program in Precision Medicine Innovation (MPPMI) – **ELSI in Precision Medicine**.

For the **ELSI in Precision Medicine** mechanism, projects

- should address an innovative ELSI, implementation or policy project, tethered deliberately to a precision medicine application (e.g., data stewardship and sharing, economics of precision medicine applications, precision medicine and health disparities, role of genetic exceptionalism in policy development, participant rights and engagement, etc.);
- require two or more PIs (multi-PIs);
- should employ high-risk thinking and approaches that will likely yield explicit “deliverables” (including discovery that the idea was wrong) after one year.

## Award Amounts:

### **Marcus Program Seeding Bold Ideas Award (MP-SBI)**

- Up to \$75,000 for one year
- SBI awards enable initial exploration of untested concepts or hypotheses with great potential impact

- Funding 4-6 proposals

### **Marcus Program Transformative Integrated Research Award (MP-TIR)**

- Up to \$300,000 for one year
- TIR awards support new directions for established basic science-driven translational studies
- Funding 3-4 proposals

### **Marcus Program ELSI in Precision Medicine Award (MP-ELSI)**

- Up to \$150,000 for one year
- ELSI awards support the development of necessary frameworks for ELSI, implementation, and policy aspects of precision medicine.
- Funding up to 2 proposals

### **Eligibility:**

- UCSF faculty, as well as UCSF Sandler Fellows and Physician Scientist Scholars Program awardees are eligible; and
- At least one of the multi-PIs on the team must have an Academic Senate appointment.

**Submission:** As a single PDF, via email to [rdoinfo@ucsf.edu](mailto:rdoinfo@ucsf.edu) no later than Thursday, September 12, 2019, 11:59 pm PST. **NOTE: Include contact PI last name in the file name and put *Marcus Award* in the Subject Line.**

### **Selection Process:**

A diverse faculty committee with appropriate expertise and understanding of precision medicine goals will select the awardees and establish funding levels.

### **Review Criteria**

**(1-4 must be met for each;** address additional criteria explicitly to the extent that they apply to your proposal)

**Seeding Bold Ideas Award and Transformative Integrated Research Award** proposals should:

1. Address an innovative precision medicine approach grounded in a basic science problem or question;
2. Address the potential for tangible benefit to patients, including the likelihood that the study will have an immediate impact;
3. Address the potential for data integration, bridging basic and translational research;
4. Describe the multidisciplinary composition and expertise of team members;
5. Give attention to particular challenges of computational needs, interoperability, health disparities, privacy, participant engagement, consent, security, ethical and/or regulatory issues;
6. Include potential downstream use of tools, measurements, approaches, and data, including open public accessibility of generated data and publications; and/or
7. Include the potential to scale, including potential to leverage the >15 million EHR from across the UC Health centers.

**ELSI in Precision Medicine Award** proposals should:

1. Address an innovative ELSI, implementation or policy project, and describe how it is tethered deliberately to a precision medicine application;
2. Address the potential for tangible benefit to patients, including the likelihood that the study will enable more effective and timely implementation of precision medicine applications;

3. Describe the multidisciplinary composition and expertise of team members;
4. Include the potential downstream use of tools, measurements, approaches, and data, including open public accessibility of generated data and publications; and/or
5. Include the potential to scale.

**Proposal Instructions** (Arial 11 font; 0.5 inch margins)

1. Cover Page (1 page limit): Cover page with name of award program, deadline, title of proposal, scientific disciplines represented in the collaboration, amount of funding requested, Principal Investigator names, academic titles, departments, phone numbers, UCSF box numbers, and email addresses. Identify the contact PI and the UCSF department that will manage the award, the accounting manager/contact name, UCSF box number, email address, and phone number.
2. Project Description (2 page limit): Project Description to include sections on Rationale/Background; Proposed Research and Approach; Innovation; and Impact. Preliminary data not required. Figures must be included within these 2 pages.
3. Competitive Renewal Statement (if applicable, additional 1 page to Project Description): *If this proposal is a request for Year 2 follow-on funding of a 2018 project award*, please complete a Competitive Renewal Statement in which you describe the research results obtained with Year 1 funding, including the extent to which Year 1 goals were achieved and/or any issues encountered; and describe the relationship between the aims of the Year 1 funding proposal and those proposed for Year 2.
4. References (not part of page limitations)
5. Budget and Budget Justification (1 page limit): Funds may not support faculty salary.
6. Biosketch (not part of page limitations): for each PI, [NIH format OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 \(Rev. 09/17 Approved Through 03/31/2020\)](#).
7. Current & Pending Support (not part of page limitations): All current and pending intramural and extramural research support information for each PI, following the [NIH format](#).

**Program contact:** Gretchen Kiser, PhD, UCSF Research Development Office: 415.502.1665;  
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