

## **Keck Foundation Concept Papers**

The University of Oregon office of Foundation Relations invites faculty to submit one page concept papers for consideration by the WM Keck Foundation. An internal review determines those with the best fit to Keck Foundation guidelines, and the institution then submits these proposals to the Keck Foundation. Concept papers given favorable reviews by Keck can be submitted as 3 page “Phase 1” proposals due on May 1, 2018. Please note: the Keck Foundation requires that all communication from the University of Oregon be routed through the office of Foundation Relations ([davidfj@uoregon.edu](mailto:davidfj@uoregon.edu)). Faculty should not contact the Keck Foundation directly.

**The internal deadline for concept papers is December 18, 2017 by 5pm. Please submit directly to David Frazee Johnson, [davidfj@uoregon.edu](mailto:davidfj@uoregon.edu)**

Concept papers should be one page, in 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. Please include:

- 1) an overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies;
- 2) a description of the methodologies and key personnel;
- 3) a brief justification of the need for Keck support; and why the project is inappropriate for Federal agencies or other funders
- 4) an estimated budget broken down, if possible, by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. (budgets can be rough approximations at this stage).

The request to Keck can range between \$1 - \$1.3 million over 3 years. Keck recommends that some form of institutional or external match be provided, and will give priority to proposals that demonstrate institutional commitment in the form of matching support.

The WM Keck Foundation prioritizes research that is “unique and transformational.” They do not fund incremental progress on previously funded research. Keck funds projects that have an element of risk, but that offer tremendous rewards.

Funding is awarded for projects in research that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies
- Are innovative, distinctive and interdisciplinary
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Does not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project’s success

Please indicate whether the proposal is best suited to the Medical Research program, or to the Science & Engineering program. Keck program staff have indicated that projects that create a tangible product are likely to be classified as Science & Engineering, whereas projects that deal with pure research, often with a medical focus, are likely to be classified as Medical Research.

If you have questions about the concept papers, please contact David Frazee Johnson, Director of Foundation Relations, at [davidfj@uoregon.edu](mailto:davidfj@uoregon.edu), or 503-410-1617. For more information on the WM Keck Foundation's Research Program, please visit: <http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research>.