

## **Reviewer Guidelines - SOM Research Opportunity Fund**

### **Intent**

The Funding Program intends to provide rapid funding for Investigators in the School of Medicine with monthly deadlines for applications. The program is designed to support:

- 1) research to obtain final data for a biomedical research proposal to be submitted for extramural funding,
- 2) data that will significantly increase the impact of a publication, thereby increasing the likelihood of future funding, or
- 3) the purchase of innovative instrumentation or technologies to be used by multiple investigators.

The School of Medicine Research Opportunity Fund is provided by the Saint Louis University Research Institute.

### **Goals**

The Research Institute Goals, which extended through this Research Growth Fund initiative, are to:

- 1) Achieve and sustain annual research expenditure growth that places SLU among the fastest-growing universities.
- 2) Establish eminence in strategic research priority areas.
- 3) Raise SLU's profile and reputation as a world-class research university.
- 4) Recruit and retain eminent research leaders and invest in their work.
- 5) Increase federal, industry, and philanthropic funding for the research conducted at SLU.

### **Application Review**

All members of the RPC are welcome to participate in the review of the proposals. Applications will be reviewed by two members of the RPC. A non-member of the RPC will be invited to review an application if additional expertise is required for an adequate review. The NIH scoring system (1-9) will evaluate the impact of the proposal on meeting the goals of the program highlighted above. A high priority will be evaluating the potential return on investment for the proposal. Likely, proposal discussion by the committee will only be considered for the most meritorious applications with an average score of 2 or less. The membership of the RPC will vote on each proposal following recommendations by reviewers and discussions of proposals.

### Assigning an Overall Impact Score (NIH Method)

A raw score of 1 is the best possible, 9 is the worst.

### Scoring Table for Research Grant Applications

Degree of Impact	Impact Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Moderate	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

#### Definitions

Minor: easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen the impact of the project.

Moderate: weakness that lessens the impact of the project.

Major: weakness that severely limits the impact of the project.