Funding for 2017

SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL (SMS) – FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (FEIT)

SMS-FEIT BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH COLLABORATION SCHEME

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 16 December 2016

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE:
The Sydney Medical School (SMS) and Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies (FEIT) are committed to strengthen research collaborations in the fields of Biomedical Engineering and Technologies. The SMS-FEIT Biomedical Engineering Research Collaboration Scheme is jointly funded by each Faculty and aims to support, on a competitive basis, high quality research projects that foster new collaborations and incubate innovative research ideas that build scope for larger external funding opportunities.

1. Funding

Up to five awards, each with a nominal budget of $15,000 seed funding, is available.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Employment status

All applicants must have a formal appointment until 30 June 2018. Applicants who are yet to commence their appointment at the time of application will be considered, however, any offer of a grant may not be taken up until their appointment for the full period of the grant has been confirmed.

Applicants must be:

- 1) members of the academic staff of the Sydney Medical School (SMS) or Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies (FEIT) with at least a 0.4 FTE appointment, and on the payroll of the University of Sydney or;
- 2) have been formally appointed with an academic title (including clinical and conjoint appointments) to SMS or FEIT in accordance with the “Honorary Titles” policy;
- **Note:** Adjuncts, Emeritus and Honorary research affiliates, general staff and casual staff may not apply;
- **Note:** Current SMS title holders salaried by independent medical research institutes with a current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place are eligible to apply provided that they have an affiliation to the University and that all the research productivity of that organisation passes through the University of Sydney and is credited to the SMS, and they affiliate with the SMS and/or The University of Sydney in the by-line of all publications and presentations. Similarly, conjoint appointees in FEIT must have all their affiliated research productivity (e.g. grant applications, postgraduate research student supervision, publications) submitted through and administered by the University to be eligible to apply for this scheme.

Research-only or fixed term contract staff are eligible to apply if they meet the eligibility criteria above, but preference will be given to applicants with a continuing appointment.

The following staff may not be nominated as a Chief Investigator (CI):

- postgraduate students, regardless of whether they hold an academic appointment;
- academic or research-only staff on long service leave and/or leave without pay for more than three months during the period of the grant;
- persons located overseas for more than six months during the period of the grant. Any proposed absence overseas for a total period between three and six months during the term of the grant must be disclosed and a justification provided as to how the project will be conducted during the absence. Failure to provide appropriate justification will be grounds for exclusion.

2.2 Project team

The project team must include at least one researcher from each The Sydney Medical School (SMS) and Faculty of Engineering & Information Technologies (FEIT), and existing collaboration history must be declared. Preference will be given to projects that establish new collaborative teams and/or projects.
2.3 Research idea
The research project must be based on a novel research idea, not extending current collaboration on existing projects. Preference will be given to research ideas with potential to lead to Category 1 funding.

3. General Guidelines:

3.1 Number of Applications
A CI may be named on more than one application, but can be lead investigator on one only.

3.2 Period of Funding
Grants will be offered for one year only from 1 February 2017. Funds must be spent by 30 November 2017. Any unspent funds as at 30 November 2017 will be recovered.

3.3 Items for which funding is NOT provided:
The scheme does not provide funding for:

- attendance to or hosting of seminars or workshops;
- conference expenses;
- abstracting services;
- publication and cover image costs
- the production of teaching materials, even though some research may be involved in their production;
- the salary, or part salary, of any Chief Investigator;
- teaching relief;
- the short-term participation of an eminent scholar on sabbatical leave;
- air fares for overseas visitors;
- a researcher’s travel or living expenses when on a Special Studies Programme. Travel to special facilities away from the base where an investigator is spending his or her Special Study Program is part of the normal cost of study leave and is not allowable under this scheme.

3.4 Ethics
Work may not commence on any funded project until the appropriate Ethics or Biosafety Clearance has been obtained. It is the applicant’s responsibility to obtain and submit the approved clearances through Research Portfolio

3.4 Final Report
Grantees are required to submit a brief final report on the project by 30 June 2018 for review by the relevant Associate Deans Research. The final report (a template will be provided closer to the due date) will include Project Aims; Research Completed; Research Outcomes; Budget & Actual Expenditure; Follow-up (including a statement on how the awarded funds helped in preparing follow-up large external grant applications).

4. Assessment Criteria:
Applications will be assessed by a selection committee appointed by SMS and FEIT Associate Deans Research. Importance will be given to the project and the track record of the project team, relative to opportunity. The weightings for assessment are:
(a) Strategic alignment to inter-Faculty Biomedical Engineering Collaboration initiative: 20%
(b) Significance and innovation: 20%
(c) Potential to lead to Category 1-4 funding: 20%
(d) Applicants track record (relative to opportunity): 25%
(e) Collaborative strength of project team: 15%