The W.M. Keck Foundation

The W.M. Keck Foundation is seeking proposals for its Research Program. MIT may submit 1 proposal to each of the following areas: (A) Science and Engineering Research and (B) Medical Research.

Internal Competition Deadline (for the June 2016 Grant Cycle): 1-page concept papers due by Friday, June 5, 2015.

Please Note: These awards do not cover indirect costs--they will incur under recovery

IMPORTANT FUNDING CRITERIA: The Foundation is only interested in supporting basic research projects that:

• Focus on important and emerging areas of basic research.

• Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies.

• Are innovative, distinctive and interdisciplinary. (Note: Although not required, the Foundation often prefers projects that involve collaboration, including those with previous Keck grantees, over single investigator research.)

• Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm. (Note: The Foundation is unlikely to fund projects that are an extension of existing work in a faculty member's lab.)

• 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.

• Do NOT focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development or disease-related applications.

• 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. (Note: the Foundation is not interested in proposals that simply failed to meet the pay-line of federal agencies; the strongest applications will include verbatim comments from program officers suggesting that the project is too high-risk for federal agencies to fund, or that it falls between traditional funding "buckets".)

• Do not focus on ideas that the W.M. Keck Foundation has already funded. (Note: Examples of research projects that the Foundation has funded recently are available at the following link: http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-abstracts-final/research)
STEP 1 - Submit brief concept paper.

Please send the following information to Corey Schenck eschenck@mit.edu, by June 5, 2015.

A one-page concept paper (12-point font with 1-inch margins) that includes the following:

- Name of PI(s) and title of research project
- Indication of area of emphasis: medical research or science and engineering research
- An overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies
- A detailed description of methodologies
- A detailed justification of the need for Keck support, including why the project is not fundable by other organizations
- Preliminary budget from $500K - $5M over 1 - 5 years, broken down by major areas, e.g., personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc. [NOTE: Although the maximum grant size is $5M, the majority of projects funded by the Foundation are at the level of $1M. If a PI can make a strong case that the project would result in new equipment and instrumentation, the Foundation might consider providing funding at the $2M level. They very rarely fund projects over $2M.]

You are free to add other details (e.g., background to put the research into perspective, description of the institution's prominence in the field) if there is room.

Avoid illustrations in these one-pagers.

If reference is absolutely necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, '11).

Restrictions:

- The Keck Foundation provides no overhead; thus, these awards incur under recovery
- The Foundation does not cover graduate student tuition
- Maximum grant size is $5M over 5 years; however, as noted above, Keck grants are typically $1M or less

NOTE: If you have applied for a Keck internal competition in the past, please do not submit the same proposal again for consideration.
Prior to submitting your concept paper to Corey Schenck, we recommend that you confer with Theresa Ulrich, Associate Director of Foundation Relations, taulrich@mit.edu, (617) 324-6129. The Office of Foundation Relations has been in direct contact with the Keck Foundation over the years, and Theresa can share with you more details about the types of projects that interest the Foundation.

**Step 2 - Further processes and deadlines:**

Several concept papers may be selected by the VP for Research and the Deans of Science and Engineering for discussion with Keck program staff in the July-August 2015 timeframe.

Following such discussion, the VP for Research and the Deans may select one project from each of the two categories (science & engineering research and medical research) for MIT's institutional submissions; internal applicants will be notified by summer 2015.

If selected, Phase I applications are due to Keck by November 1, 2015.

The Foundation will notify MIT by January 15, 2016 of invitations to submit full Phase II proposals, if any.

Invited Phase II proposals are due to the Foundation by February 15, 2016.

Site visits may be made by a program officer(s) in spring 2016.

Grant decisions will be announced in June 2016.

For more information on the Keck Foundation and these programs, please visit: [http://wmkeck.org/](http://wmkeck.org/).

If you have questions, please contact:

Theresa Ulrich

Associate Director

Office of Foundation Relations

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