Dear Colleague,

I am writing to call your attention to a funding opportunity available through the Center for Materials Science and Engineering (CMSE).

CMSE, through its National Science Foundation Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) core grant, has funding available for a total of four seed projects. Each seed is an individual investigator project with an annual award not to exceed $80K. Each project will be funded for up to two years with funding to begin March 1, 2017. Support is generally for graduate students and related materials and services expenses. Strong preference is given to junior and new faculty members to draw them into collaborative interdisciplinary research.

The primary goals of CMSE seed funding are:

- To support research that has the potential to redefine the direction of an existing Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG) or Initiative Project
- To lead to the creation of a completely new IRG or Initiative Project
- To foster a newly appreciated opportunity for high scientific discovery or technological impact.

CMSE's mission is to foster collaborative interdisciplinary research and education in the fundamental science of materials and in the engineering of materials for long-range applications.

Currently supported research groups and their leaders are as follows:

- **IRG-I: Harnessing In-fiber Fluid Instabilities for Scalable and Universal Multidimensional Nanosphere Design, Manufacturing and Applications**
  Group Co-Leaders: Prof. Yoel Fink and Prof. Marin Soljacic

- **IRG-II: Simple Engineered Biological Motifs for Complex Hydrogel Function**
  Group Co-Leaders: Prof. Katharina Ribbeck and Prof. Patrick Doyle

- **IRG-III: Nanoionics at the Interface: Charge, Phonon and Spin Transport**
  Group Co-Leaders: Prof. Caroline Ross and Prof. Bilge Yildiz

I encourage interested faculty to contact the relevant IRG leaders listed above and/or myself to discuss any seed proposal prior to submission, or to learn more about how the proposed research could relate to the types of research funded within the Center. I can be contacted directly at rubner@mit.edu or 253-6701.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **Monday, January 16, 2017.**
The proposals will be placed on the agenda of the CMSE Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) for review. Decisions will be made in February 2017 and awards will be announced by the CMSE Director by February 28, 2017.

**The seed proposal, within specified page limits, should be organized as follows:**

1. Project title and statement of problem (1 page or less) – should explain what will be done and why and provide context relative to the work of others
2. Highlights of recent research results (1 page or less)
3. Plan of research (no more than 3 pages), including:
   a. Anticipated scientific or engineering benefits – should answer the question – so what, in other words, even if you are successful why is this important
   b. Relation of proposed research to investigator's overall research program
   c. Relation of proposed research to other work at CMSE, at MIT, or elsewhere
4. Biographical Information (1 page maximum)
5. Current and Pending Support
6. Proposed Budget Request

Please send an electronic copy of your proposal to Susan Dalton (sdalton@mit.edu) by January 16, 2017.

Lastly, the Center is always interested in hearing about new faculty in materials-related disciplines. CMSE is an excellent vehicle for involving junior faculty in collaborative interdisciplinary research.

Additional information about CMSE research, programs and facilities is available on our website at [http://web.mit.edu/cmse](http://web.mit.edu/cmse). If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Prof. Michael Rubner, CMSE Director  
rubner@mit.edu  
253-6701

Susan Dalton, CMSE Assistant Director  
sdalton@mit.edu  
253-7632

Thank you,  
Michael