Health matters. Health of individuals, families, and communities. Health of the environment in which we live. Health of the animals and ecosystems that surround us. We conduct research and pursue discoveries at the University of Minnesota because we want to improve health and well-being for the communities we serve. We engage in team science, knowing complex challenges require our collective diverse ideas. The University of Minnesota Office of Academic Clinical Affairs exists to promote team science—interdisciplinary collaborations that strengthen clinical practice, pursue new knowledge, and advance patient care.

One way we do this is through Faculty Research Development (FRD) grants, which are now open for applications. These grants will be awarded through a competitive peer review process. It is anticipated that up to six applications will be funded in the current competition. FRD grants are intended to support new or expanding interdisciplinary research which addresses significant clinical issues, is innovative and has a high potential for return on investment. Note that clinical issues are broad; they can range from strengthening clinical practice through the development of new tools and approaches, to responding to community health concerns and societal factors directly influencing public health and well-being. Applications can encompass a continuum from laboratory research to community-engaged/community-based research.

**Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria**

1) All full-time paid UMN faculty at the Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor level are eligible. Faculty on phased retirement are not eligible. Individuals who hold P&A appointments (e.g., Research Associates), but hold a courtesy appointment as an Assistant Professor from their department chair are not eligible. Questions regarding faculty eligibility should be discussed with the Associate Dean for Research in the applicant’s college or school. The OACA has final authority in determining eligibility.

2) Proposals are encouraged from all areas of clinically-related and clinical research within the UMN. **The project must be interdisciplinary, involving two co-PIs who are each from a different UMN college or school. The program is open to faculty from the entire University.** The project can include co-investigators/collaborators, but their role should be of central importance to the conduct of the study.

3) A faculty member may apply for only one FRD grant per cycle on which he/she is a co-PI. There is no limit to the number of applications on which a faculty member would participate as a collaborator.

4) The maximum award will be $200,000 that can be applied to a one or two-year project. In general, funds should be used to support the direct costs of research in alignment
with institutional and federal guidelines. Funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries, administrative assistant salaries, travel to scientific meetings, and payments or reimbursements for patient care.

5) The primary criteria for funding will be innovation, quality of the research approach, synergy of the research team, justification for the request (particularly for applications from PIs with substantial funding) and the potential for future external funding to sustain or further develop the program.

**Application Process**

1) LOI: A letter of intent (LOI), prepared by both co-PIs, must include: a) a one page letter summarizing the project and the role of the two co-PIs, and b) NIH bio-sketches for both co-PIs. **This information must be received by 4:30pm on Friday, September 20, 2019.** The LOI will be screened for innovation, team synergy, alignment with the OACA mission and potential for future external funding. Depending upon the number of LOIs submitted, as few as half may be invited to submit a full application. Material must be electronically submitted using the online form available at the following link: [LOI Submission Form](#).

Applicants will be notified about LOI decisions by **Friday, October 11, 2019.**

2) FULL SUBMISSION: **The full application should be evaluable by a general scientific audience and avoid the use of discipline specific jargon and acronyms.** Sufficient space should be devoted to describing the unresolved questions and broad goals of the application, not just the details of specific experiments. The following must be included:

   a. A summary of no more than 1/2 page that can be understood by a lay audience.
   b. Research plan. This section should include background, hypothesis/specific aims, any preliminary data (not required), experimental plan, and references.
   c. Explain how the inter-collegiate nature of the project will facilitate successful completion of the specific aims, and the strategy that will be employed to pursue external funding to sustain the project on a longer-term basis.
   d. A detailed description of the roles of the two co-PIs on the project and the potential for synergy in the collaboration. Each of the two co-PIs will be expected to make a robust contribution to the design and conduct of the study, similar to the expectations for multi-PIs in an NIH award. In the event that the two co-PIs have a past history of collaboration (e.g., as evidenced by co-authored papers and/or jointly held grants), please explain if the current application is an extension of prior work or a new direction.

   *Page limit for items a-d is 5 pages,* single-spaced, Arial or Helvetica typeface, font size 11 or larger, margins at least 0.5 inches on sides, 0.8 inches on top and bottom. **Page limitation includes figures, tables and references.**

   e. Provide an NIH biosketch for the two co-PIs. Identify current and pending sources of research support for the two co-PIs, and clarify how the proposed project relates to other funded projects. For other support that appears to
overlap with this FRD application please clarify how the proposals differ.
f. Include a detailed budget and justification for how the funds will be used.
g. If a similar or related proposal has been reviewed but not funded by an outside agency, please attach the reviews (e.g., summary statements).

3) A Proposal Routing Form (PRF) should be completed and signed by the department head and dean for the PI and co-PI and any other key investigators. (DO NOT ROUTE THE PROPOSAL TO SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION).

4) The deadline for receipt of full applications is 4:30pm, Friday, November 15, 2019. Awards will be announced and funding will commence in winter 2019.

5) Applications must be submitted electronically as a single .PDF file using the following submission form: FRD Full Proposal Form

Submission Links
1) LOI: FRD LOI Submission Form
2) Full Proposal: FRD Full Proposal Form

*You may save and return to complete your submissions at any time using the code provided when the “Save and Return Later” option is selected. To return to either of the forms re-click the links identified above. If you have any questions about this process, contact Jessica Van Gilder, vangi007@umn.edu.

Review Process
The review panel will include faculty members from across the University. Recommendations from the review panel will be submitted to the Vice President for Clinical Affairs for final approval. Unedited written critiques will be sent to applicants.

Reporting Requirements
The funding period is 2 years beginning in winter 2020, with the 2nd year of support contingent upon documented progress toward fulfillment of your specific aims during the initial year of funding. Selected senior leaders from UMN colleges and schools will review your initial year’s progress in a face-to-face meeting that will be held in Fall 2020. This will include a review of progress in completing the specific aims and utilization of funds. Funds for year 2 will only be released following approval from the Vice President for Clinical Affairs. At the completion of your project you will need to provide a final report and an accounting of all of the funds expended.

Questions
Specific questions regarding the use of redcap and the application process can be sent to Jessica Van Gilder (vangi007). Broader questions about program purpose should be addressed to Tucker W. LeBien (lebie001), Senior Advisor for Research Operations, Office of Academic Clinical Affairs.