LaunchPad  
Biomedical Innovation in Diabetes  

Request For Applications  
Application Due: Friday July 21, 2017 at Noon  

Program:  
The LaunchPad program is an internal translational research fund supporting collaborative research projects by teams proposing innovative solutions to the diagnosis and treatment of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes. The program was created to leverage the robust discovery capacity at UVA by funding projects holding promise for achieving translational outcomes. The plans are for 4 to 5 awards averaging $60,000-$75,000 each for 12 months. The requested amount of funding must be commensurate with the project stage and goals. The LaunchPad program is supported through a generous gift from Paul and Diane Manning.  

The goal of this program is to support research projects that address unmet clinical needs and lead to improvements in care of patients with diabetes mellitus. Examples of desirable outcomes include improved diagnosis and treatment of disease through new medical devices, biomarkers or diagnostics, therapeutic targets and agents, or new clinical adoption of existing tools. Although not required, it is anticipated that most projects will result in new intellectual property, commercial partnerships, or start-up companies.  

To facilitate project development and meet program objectives, each funded project will work with the Program Director and a liaison from the UVA Licensing and Ventures Group to advise on business development and commercialization components. In addition, project teams will benefit from the feedback, mentoring, and relationship-building provided by the LaunchPad Review Board.  

Eligibility Criteria:  
• At least one investigator from each team is required to be permanent, full-time, tenure-track faculty at professorial rank (assistant, associate, or full professor) with a primary appointment in the School of Medicine or School of Nursing. Eligible investigators may submit more than one proposal.  
• Applicants are encouraged to have a clinical collaborator (medical doctor, nurse or professional who sees patients).  

Submission:  
Potential applicants must contact: Sharon Krueger, LaunchPad Program Director sak8e@virginia.edu to discuss the proposal idea.  
Final proposal submissions are due by Noon on Friday July 21st via email to Sharon Krueger. Confirmation that final proposal submission was received will be provided via email.  

The LaunchPad Review Board will review the final proposal submissions in July-August and select projects for a mid-September for oral presentations. Funding will start by October 1st, 2017  

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF and may not exceed six pages. The cover page, budget page, NIH CV’s and relevant current funding from the co-investigators do not count towards the six page limit.
Key Elements of the Proposal:

Cover Page:

Must contain the project title, names of the investigators, amount requested, and summary of the novelty and significance of the proposed work, and the approval and signature of the department chair (cover page is not included in page limit).

Research Aims and Plan (six page limit): that discusses the clinical problem, market size, current standard of care, impact of proposed research and commercialization strategy.

- Describe the unmet clinical issues that are being addressed by the proposed research along with the potential market size and current standard of care. Discuss the impact of positive outcomes from the research on clinical care, treatment, diagnosis or envisioned product/solution.
- Specific Aims and the research plan for achieving each aim – include the experiments to be performed to achieve each aim; provide supporting preliminary data or progress-to-date as appropriate.
- Quarterly milestones for the research plan and commercialization plan.
- Include IRB and/or ACUC status for project if relevant.
- Current intellectual property status, commercialization strategy to advance the technology into the market and/or clinical adoption, the FDA plan with a proposed timeline.
- Plan for follow-on funding after LaunchPad award expires.
- NIH CV’s of each investigator (not included in page limit)
- List of relevant current funding and pending proposals for each investigator. (not included in page limit)

Budget information:

Budgets should include project personnel, supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time and travel directly associated with the research activity. Format to present budget information is flexible. (budget page not included in page limit)

Duration:

Grants will be awarded for a one-year period. Awardees from previous funding cycles are eligible to apply and competitive renewal applications should include a comparison of milestone achieved vs. those planned in the original submission.

Budgets:

Eligible budget items include salary support for project personnel, supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time and travel directly associated with the research activity. Funds cannot be requested or used for F&A costs, administrative support or tuition. Grant budgets should not exceed $60,000- $75,000 in direct costs for a one-year period. Funding is expected to begin in October 2017.

Reporting:

Award recipients are required to submit short written quarterly reports and a final report. All funded projects will give a short mid-year oral presentation to the Review Board. Regular research update meetings will also be held between the funded project team and LaunchPad program Director.