



## Beckman Institute call for seed proposals 2024-2025

### Seeding novel interdisciplinary research

The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology announces an open competition for awards to seed new interdisciplinary research projects. This annual competition continues the self-renewal and reinvention process that has been critically important to the vitality of the Beckman Institute and its ongoing mission to foster novel interdisciplinary research. The expectation is that the 2-3 selected proposals will lead to externally funded research proposals within two years and will form the building blocks of novel programs of research at the Beckman Institute. Selected proposal teams will also be asked to present results at a future Beckman Institute Director's Seminar.

Proposals must clearly demonstrate a promise beyond what can be achieved by a collection of individual investigator proposals. In keeping with Beckman's core values, proposals that are interdisciplinary, collaborative, and innovative are sought. The proposed research must take place in the Beckman Institute.

Proposals may request up to \$150,000 for two years. Allowable costs include graduate research assistantships, undergraduate research assistants, postdoc partial stipends, user fees to Beckman core facilities, small equipment, and materials and supplies. Funding cannot be used for faculty salaries. Continuation of funding for the second year will be contingent on sufficient progress toward the stated goals at the end of the first year. Funds must be spent within two years unless an extension is granted.

Funded seed projects are expected to fully support the mission and programs of the Beckman Institute, in addition to accomplishing the work described in the proposal. This includes the following expectations: submitting grant proposals related to the seed topic through the Beckman Institute; participating in engagement and partnership activities; and enhancing the Beckman Institute's seminar series through participation and speaker invitations.

#### Eligibility

- A team of two or three UIUC faculty members may submit a proposal. At least one of these faculty members must be a full-time or part-time member of the Beckman Institute.
- The same faculty member can be on no more than two funded proposals at the same time.
- The plan of work must be performed at the Beckman Institute.

## Proposal package requirements:

The proposal package includes the following documents:

1. Proposal itself as described below (up to 4 pages)
  - a. Proposal title
  - b. Names of faculty co-investigators
  - c. Project description that describes
    - i. Objectives and significance
    - ii. Plan of work, including where it will happen at Beckman
    - iii. Intellectual merit, including interdisciplinarity and innovation
    - iv. Broader impacts
  - d. Roster of other team members (students, postdocs, etc.)
  - e. Collaboration/management plan
  - f. List of potential external funding sources and programs to be pursued based on the successful completion of this seed project
2. Budget (suggest using the SPA Budget Template:  
<https://sponsoredprograms.illinois.edu/forms/spa-budget-template-fy24>)
  - a. Fringe benefits should be included if salary is budgeted
  - b. F&A should not be included
  - c. Graduate tuition remission should not be included
3. Budget justification (1 page text)
4. Biosketch for each faculty member (reusing your current NSF or NIH biosketch is fine)
5. Current and pending support for each faculty member
6. References

The proposed start date of the work should be between May 1 – August 16, 2024. Proposals should be received by the Director's Office no later than February 15, 2024 via the following form: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/595520271>.

Any questions should be directed to the Beckman Associate Director for Research Cristina Alvarez-Mingote at [alvarez9@illinois.edu](mailto:alvarez9@illinois.edu).

## Timeline and Evaluation Procedure

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|--|-------------------|
| - Deadline for submission:                                     | February 15, 2024 |
| - Ratings by the Beckman Institute Program Advisory Committee: | March 15, 2024    |
| - Final decisions and notification:                            | March 30, 2024    |
| - Earliest start date for funding                              | May 1, 2024       |

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with Beckman's Values ("EXCITED"): EXcellence, Collaboration, Integrity, Transdisciplinarity, Exploration, Diversity by the Beckman Institute Program Advisory Committee. Three PAC reviewers will rate each application according to below scoring scheme (max points = 25).



Subscale Name	Subscale Scoring	Maximum
Excellence – quality of project’s aims, innovation, intellectual merit and broader impacts	0 (lowest) to 10 (highest)	10
Excellence – relevance to Beckman	0 (lowest) to 5 (highest)	5
Team Excellence – quality of collaboration plan and diversity of team members (in terms of different disciplines, faculty ranks, demographic diversity characteristics)	0 (lowest) to 5 (highest)	5
Clarity of path to external funding	0 (lowest) to 5 (highest)	5

