Purpose
In the current climate of increased competition for government, foundation, and private support for research, the Office of the Provost is sponsoring an internal, peer-reviewed program to provide “bridge” funding for established principal investigators (PIs) whose extramural funding has been interrupted. Awards made under this program are not intended to substitute for outside research support; rather, they are designed to sustain research activity on a limited, interim basis in cases where projects demonstrate the likelihood of securing continued grant funding following the submission of revised proposals.

Eligibility
To be eligible to submit an application under this program, an individual must

- hold a tenure-track or tenured faculty appointment;
- have served as PI on an externally funded research project (not a demonstration project, training program, or postdoctoral fellowship);
- have received three consecutive years of funding on a single award or a combination of related awards from an agency or agencies that employ peer review\(^1\);
- have submitted a competitive application for continued support from an appropriate funding agency during the final year of the most recent extramural grant period; and
- demonstrate that a submission or resubmission for the next funding cycle has a strong chance of succeeding (e.g., by showing that a recent proposal was scored but not funded).

Exceptions to these eligibility requirements may be made by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs under unusual circumstances.

Award Specifications
The following constraints apply to awards made under this program:

- Awards will not exceed $50,000 per year for a maximum of two years; a separate application must be submitted for each year of funding. Applicants should request only the minimum

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\(^1\) PIs with multiple external grants may request support for a single lapsed grant.
funding necessary to maintain a defined project over a short duration; these awards are not intended to cover the full cost of maintaining an entire laboratory.

- Faculty salaries cannot be requested and remain the responsibility of the academic unit (college, school, department, center or institute) sponsoring the research. A letter of support will be required from the department chair, dean or director responsible for providing salary and space support to the applicant.

- In general, funds may be requested only for supplies and salaries of research support personnel (including employee benefits) and must be spent according to the budget provided by the investigator.

- As a condition of accepting an award, the PI must agree to continue reapplying for extramural funding in the same general area of research.

- If and when extramural funding is re-established, unspent funds from the award must be returned to the bridge funding program to assist other investigators.

**Application Process**
The following process will govern the submission and review of applications to this program:

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

- Applications must be submitted in PDF format to the Office of Research, which will review them to insure compliance with program guidelines and to resolve any budgetary issues.

- The Office of the Provost will convene a peer-review committee to evaluate each application and make a recommendation to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Criteria will include, but are not limited to, the length and amount of the external funding previously awarded to the project and the scholarly productivity of the PI as indicated by high-impact publications.

- Applicants will receive notification of the Provost’s decision within one month of submission. The number and amount of the awards made will depend on the availability of funds. Decisions may include outright approval of the funding, denial, deferral until funding becomes available, or a recommendation to “revise and resubmit.”

**Application Materials**
In general, applications should demonstrate the anticipated effectiveness of a bridge award in enhancing the prospects for the resumption of long-term extramural funding. Applications must include the following as a single .pdf file:

1. a description of the research proposed *(maximum of 5 pages)*;

2. a current curriculum vitae for the applicant *(2-3 pages)*;

3. a detailed record of extramural funding of the applicant’s research for the most recent five years that lists, for each grant, (a) the award amount, (b) the funding period and (c) the high-impact publications resulting from that work *(maximum of 3 pages)*;
4. evidence that the applicant has attempted to earn continued funding (e.g., abstracts of grants submitted, panel summaries, priority scores or other evaluations and comments; please do not attach complete grant applications);

5. a detailed budget and budget justification for one year of bridge funding under this program;

6. a statement of how this funding will increase the prospects of future funding (maximum of 2 pages);

7. a letter of support from the applicant’s department chair, dean or director responsible for providing salary and space support to the applicant; and

8. (when the applicant seeks bridge funding for a second year) documentation of efforts during the first year of support to restore external funding.

All applicants must include copies of the review summary statements from the most recent agency review of their proposal.

Approvals
If the research proposed involves the use of human subjects or laboratory animals, no award will be made until the research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Projects involving the use of radioisotopes must be approved by the Radiation Safety Committee and research involving recombinant DNA must be approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee before an award is made.

Contact persons for these committees are:

- Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects: Dr. Linda Goodfellow 312 Fisher Hall (Ext.6548)
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: Ms. Denise Butler-Buccilli, B102 Bayer (Ext. 1251)
- Radiation Safety Committee: Ms. Paula Sweitzer, Room B-8 Mellon Hall (Ext. 4763)
- Institutional Biosafety Committee: Dr. Peter Castric, Dept. of Biological Sciences, 242 Mellon Hall (Ext. 6319)

Reporting Requirements:

A brief report on outcomes to date must be submitted to the Office of the Provost at the end of each year of funding. These reports must explain how the outcomes achieved relate back to the initiatives proposed; describe efforts made to obtain external funding; and reconcile the expenditures to the original budget.

Any funds remaining at the end of the first or second year must be returned to the Office of the Provost unless explicit permission is granted to carry them over.