



Entrepreneurial Funding Announcement

Background: The **President's Translational and Entrepreneurial Research Fund (PTEF)** is sponsored by the Office of the President in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) at UT Health San Antonio to provide early stage seed funds for applied research. The PTEF is intended to provide funding for projects that have a high probability of being commercialized but are unlikely to do so without gap funding. Proposals are sought from investigators interested in developing their ideas into biomedical products (therapeutics, biologics, devices, software, etc.). Interested parties should contact the [OTC](#) with any inquiries.

Areas of Interest: Funds may be utilized for projects related to:

- Proof of concept studies leading to a provisional patent application
- Prototype development and research -- materials and labor costs
- Commercial feasibility studies (PK/PD)
- Software development -- specific scope of project required
- R&D -- equipment, materials, lab time, personnel etc. (all must be specific and required for milestone accomplishment)
- Other specific costs associated with the milestones specified in the funding request.

Funding: Funds are awarded on March 1, 2018 to UT Health investigators for direct project costs for short-term milestones of 2 to 3 months. Unused monies will be returned to the OTC after the Project Period ends on August 31, 2018. The amount of the award will be determined by the financial resources necessary to achieve the desired milestone(s). Typically this amount will be in the range of \$5,000-\$25,000.

Eligibility Criteria: Proposals are welcomed from all investigators with primary employment appointments with UT Health SA. The investigator must be committed to commercialization of their project, working in a team approach and establishing a long term relationship with the OTC to realize this goal.

Application Process Overview:

Step 1: Disclose and Assign the Technology. Disclose the technology to the OTC with rights assigned to the UT Board of Regents as soon as possible to give OTC staff sufficient time to evaluate the disclosure and assess intellectual property (IP) rights before consideration of funding. **DEADLINE: Monday, October 2, 2017.**

Step 2: Secure a Technology Evaluation & Management Report (TMR) on the technology from OTC staff. All UT Health SA inventions will receive the TMR report as a required part of the OTC process.

Step 3: Complete the PTEF application and checklist and guidelines. Please request a copy by emailing Meagan Rockne (rockne@uthscsa.edu). The application is in PowerPoint and formatted as a "pitch deck", commonly used to brief potential investors. A one-page NIH modular-type budget with a brief justification must be included as part of the PTEF PowerPoint application. **DEADLINE: 5 PM Monday, December 11, 2017 via email to Meagan Rockne (rockne@uthscsa.edu)** Projects selected for the PTEF Review Session will be notified by **December 15, 2017.**

Step 4: Technology Pitch Coaching Sessions. If the project is selected to move to the next tier of approval, the investigator will be invited to participate in a coaching session for the technology pitch prior to the formal Technology Pitch Session. Guidance on style and content are provided to the investigator by OTC Business Development Managers.

Step 5: Technology Pitch at the PTEF Review Session. The submitted application will serve as the pitch presentation and the applicant will pitch their proposal to a panel of invited experts. The PTEF Review Session is scheduled for **January 31, 2018 and February 1, 2018.** An investigator **MUST** present their power PowerPoint Pitch Application at the PTEF Review Session in order to be considered for the award.

Evaluation Process and Notification: Proposals will be judged on the value proposition for the use of the funds in terms of validating the technology, gauging the commercial opportunity and moving the technology to a defined next stage of development. Specifically,

- Clarity of the objective/milestone;
- Excellence (as demonstrated by an innovative, well-conceived, high quality and feasible project); and
- Market assessment/validation of the technology.

The reviewers will include invited biomedical experts, OTC and VPR staff members, senior executives, and venture capitalists, Projects will be assessed and ranked by market opportunity, as well as the likelihood that funding will influence the probability of commercial success.

Award decisions will be announced on or before February 7, 2018.

Contact Information:
Office of Technology Commercialization
<http://otc.uthscsa.edu/>
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Summary of Deadlines

October 2, 2017	All UTH SA disclosures due to OTC for consideration for 2018 PTEF Award
December 11, 2017	All PTEF PowerPoint Pitch Applications due to Meagan Rockne
December 15, 2017	Notifications sent to Investigators for Applications selected to advance for formal PTEF Pitch Session
December 15, 2017 to January 21, 2018	OTC provides coaching for Investigators seeking guidance (by appt. only)
January 31, 2018 & February 1, 2018	PowerPoint Pitch Session Presentations by Investigators
February 7, 2018	PTEF Award Recipients announced
March 1, 2018	PTEF Award Funds Distributed to Recipients
August 31, 2018	PTEF Award Expires, all unused funds returned to OTC. Reports due to OTC.