SEAS Collaboration Initiation Grants (CIG)

Synopsis of Program
Washington University’s School of Engineering & Applied Science (SEAS) Collaboration Initiation Grant funds projects that facilitate collaborative research outside and among engineering departments for junior, untenured tenure-track SEAS faculty. By providing a mechanism to obtain preliminary results, the CIG program serves as a platform for faculty to apply for larger, interdisciplinary grants. Research proposals that receive funding meet the following criteria:

1. Create a more powerful, synergistic project than could be achieved by one researcher in one discipline; and,
2. Demonstrate potential to sustain the collaboration and obtain external funding.

This program requires submitting Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) to assess competing proposals in exchange for having their own application reviewed. By submitting a CIG proposal, PIs and Co-PIs are agreeing to serve as reviewers for that year's competition.

Deadline
Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 5:00PM CST via email to frankn@wustl.edu

Estimated Number of Awards
Up to 3 awards per year

Anticipated Funding Amount
Up to $20,000 for one year from SEAS plus $5,000 in required cash cost sharing. Cost sharing funds are 50% or $2,500 from the PI and/or PI’s Department and the remaining 50% or $2,500 from the Co-PI’s discretionary funds. A signed cost sharing commitment letter is required as part of the proposal.

Who May Submit Proposals
PIs must be SEAS untenured, tenure-track faculty. PIs may only submit one proposal per annual competition. PIs may not be awarded more than one CIG award. Co-PIs must be from a different department from that of the PI or from another Washington University school. Co-PIs may be any tenure-track or research faculty at Washington University.

Use of Funds
Funds may be used for any activity directly related to the conduct of the research (e.g. salaries and benefits for students, postdocs, or research scientists, research supplies, equipment/facility, etc.). Funds may not be used for faculty summer salaries, administrative staff, course buyouts, seminar speakers, consultants, conferences, or travel. Junior, untenured SEAS faculty are encouraged to approach their department chair and request support related to the cash cost sharing requirement.
Proposal Preparation Instructions
Single-spaced; one-sided; one-inch margins; Arial size 11 point or larger; one PDF file containing:

- **Cover Page** – PI and Co-PI contact information
- **Project Summary** – 1 page
- **Project Description** – 3 pages
  1. Introduction/background
  2. Research plan/technical approach
     a. Specific aims and methodology
     b. Anticipated results
     c. Specific needs for preliminary data for future submissions
- **Budget and Budget Justification** – 1 page
- **References** – 1 page
- **External Funding Target(s)** – 1 page
  o Explain to what extent the collaboration has already been established;
  o Indicate why the project could not be achieved alone;
  o Identify the federal funding agency & opportunity that will be targeted for future funding;
  o Identify how the proposed research makes a more competitive proposal for a particular future funding opportunity;
  o Identify the proposed timeline for applying for external funding.
- **Biographical Sketch** – 2 pages. Required for each PI and Co-PI.
- **Current and Pending Support** – Required for each PI and Co-PI.
- **Letter of Support from the PI's Department Chair** – Required. This letter should indicate the chair’s opinion on the importance of the project for their department and/or SEAS. Projects that do not have these Letters of Support will be returned without review. A letter from the Co-PI’s department chair is not required.
- **Cost Sharing Commitment Letter** – Required. The letter should indicate committal of cash cost sharing funds, including the source (e.g., letter of commitment from departmental chair or from PI/Co-PI(s) with discretionary fund numbers). Projects that do not have a commitment letter will be returned without review.