The University Central Discovery Grant (DG) Program aims to enhance the research of faculty members by providing seed funding to advance discovery, by stimulating the development of new ideas and areas of scholarship, and by developing necessary infrastructure. Awards are based partly on need. **Faculty working in the Arts, the Humanities, or those areas within the Social Sciences not typically supported by NSF, NIH, DoD, DOE, DoEd or other large federal agencies should explore instead the opportunities provided by the University Central Research Scholar Grant (RSG) Program.**

### Eligibility Requirements

- Full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty members are eligible to submit proposals.
- Proposals may involve investigators in the Medical Center, but the principal investigator must be based in University Central. For 2015-16, this includes full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty members in Biochemistry, Cancer Biology, Cell & Developmental Biology, Molecular Physiology & Biophysics, and Pharmacology.
- Proposals that include support for research involving graduate students are encouraged. Funds may not be used to support faculty salary.
- A given faculty member’s participation is limited to two proposal efforts, only one of those as principal investigator.
- Faculty currently serving as principal investigator (PI) or participating co-investigator on one or more active Discovery Grant awards are not eligible to submit (as PI or co-investigator) another Discovery Grant proposal until their current DG award(s) have been completed and all reporting requirements have been met.

### Additional Requirements

- Awards are based partly on need. As a result, each participating faculty member must disclose both existing external funding (for the most recent five years) and institutional resources available in the form of start-up funds or other discretionary research funds. All institutional research-support funds must be included, including endowed-chair funds, annual allocations, fixed-price contract surpluses, and other such sources.
- For all awards, Year 1 progress reports will be due by 5 p.m. July 15. For 2-year awards, Year 2 funding may be contingent on submission of the Year 1 reports.

### Categories of Support

**A. Interdisciplinary Grants.** Up to $50,000/year will be awarded for up to two years, for projects involving two or more faculty members from different fields, generally from different departments or schools. Proposals for new equipment of value to several research programs will be considered under this category.

**B. Pilot/Feasibility Studies.** Up to $25,000/year will be awarded for up to two years, to individual investigators or multiple investigators within the same department or discipline. These are intended to enable investigators to perform key preliminary investigations or studies in new areas of research prior to submitting new grant applications. Proposals must emphasize new directions or ideas as opposed to incremental extensions of established ones. Of particular interest are high-risk proposals with the potential to make significant breakthroughs.
C. **Infrastructure Grants.** Up to $100,000/year will be awarded for up to two years, for the establishment of facilities essential for research programs across departments and across disciplines. Substantial matching funds are required in this category. Matching fund sources and amounts must be included in the proposal budget.

For each category, *applicants must demonstrate a strong potential to attract ongoing external funding.* Proposal outlines for each of the above categories accompany this announcement.

**How To Apply**

Applications and instructions for the 2015-2016 competitions can be found on the Research website under Funding Opportunities ([http://research.vanderbilt.edu/policy/internal-grants/](http://research.vanderbilt.edu/policy/internal-grants/)). Proposals are due by **5 p.m., Monday, January 25** and must be submitted as a single PDF document in conjunction with a REDCap application. A link to the REDCap application will be posted to the site in the coming weeks. PLEASE note that we have moved to a REDCap format this year.

Award results are typically announced in early May - the date may vary depending on the number of proposals submitted. Funds will be available by July 1.

Questions about this program may be directed to Heidi Basgall Favorite (615-322-6067, [heidi.basgall@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:heidi.basgall@vanderbilt.edu)) or Elizabeth Rapisarda (615-322-3684, [elizabeth.rapisarda@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:elizabeth.rapisarda@vanderbilt.edu)).
UNIVERSITY CENTRAL DISCOVERY GRANT PROGRAM
2015-2016
Proposal Cover Page

Project Title: ________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Participating Faculty – List Principal Investigator (PI) or Project Director (PD) first:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dept./School</th>
<th>Academic Rank</th>
<th>Campus Phone</th>
<th>e-mail Address</th>
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Campus Mailing Address for PI/PD: ________________________________________________

Proposal Category (check one):  
- Interdisciplinary Grant _____
- Pilot/Feasibility Grant _____
- Infrastructure Grant _____

Proposed Budget Period: From ________________ to ________________

Proposed Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$_______</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Signature of Principal Investigator _____________________________________________

Date ___________________________
OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND PILOT/FEASIBILITY GRANTS

1. **General Description – one page maximum, 12-pt. font single spaced.** Each proposal must begin with a one-page summary of the proposed research that can be read and understood by someone with a science background but who is not an expert in the field of the proposed research. This description will assist the members of the internal review committee. Avoid the use of jargon and provide a context for the proposed work, including its implications.

2. **Project Summary – 3-page maximum, 12-pt. font single spaced.** Outline the major goals of the proposed research and describe how they will be accomplished. State clearly the significance of the proposed research. Additional pages may be used for figures, tables and references.

3. **Rationale – one page maximum, 12-pt. font single spaced.**

   For **Interdisciplinary Research Grants**: Explain why the proposed research is interdisciplinary, how funding of the proposal would stimulate growth of a larger research program, and how the proposed research differs from that of the individual principal investigators. Describe how the proposed research would place Vanderbilt at a competitive advantage for obtaining new extramural support - what unique research strengths would be enhanced by the awarding of a Discovery Grant? Describe any graduate-student involvement in the research.

   For **Pilot/Feasibility Grants**: Explain how funding this proposal would stimulate the growth of each faculty investigator’s overall research program and/or the growth of a new direction for the faculty listed on the cover page. Describe any graduate-student involvement in the research. It is important to argue convincingly that funding the proposed research would do substantially more than maintain the status quo.

4. **Internal Funding – one-page maximum.** For each participating faculty member, disclose institutional resources available in the form of start-up funds or other discretionary research funds. All institutional research-support funds must be included, including endowed-chair funds, annual allocations, fixed-price contract surpluses, and other such sources. Please note any restrictions or obligations governing the use of such funds. External funding should be included in #6, c.v. (below).

5. **Budget – two-page maximum.** Provide a budget for up to two years, indicating how the funds would be spent if an award were made. Be certain to mention any supplemental funds (amounts and sources) that will be applied to support the proposed research.

6. **Curriculum Vitae – two page maximum per participating faculty member listed on the cover page.** Each c.v. should include at least the following information: Name, degrees and institutions, record of professional employment, the number (only) of articles published in peer-reviewed journals (only) for each of the last five years, full citations (title, authors, journal, volume, page numbers, and date) for the five most recent publications, and record of grant support for the last five years (for each grant, provide: grant title; funding levels, including both direct costs and indirect costs; funding agency; and grant period).

   Each participating faculty member may use a third c.v. page to list his/her record of graduate-student and postdoctoral-fellow supervision, listing only those for whom the faculty member served as the principal thesis/dissertation advisor or mentor.
OUTLINE FOR PROPOSALS
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

1. **General Description – one page maximum, 12-pt. font single spaced.** Each proposal must begin with a one-page summary of the proposed research that can be read and understood by someone with a science background but who is not an expert in the field of the proposed research. This description will assist the members of the internal review committee. Avoid the use of jargon and provide a context for the proposed work, including its implications.

2. **Proposed Facility – two-page maximum (including figures, tables, and references), 12-pt. font single spaced.** Briefly describe the proposed facility, addressing the following questions: Why is the development of this facility important? Is it to be a stand-alone facility or part of a larger one? Who will use it? How will it run? Will there be a policy-setting committee to guide the facility? If so, how will members be chosen? How will the facility help to stimulate disciplinary and interdisciplinary research? What competitive advantage will accrue to Vanderbilt by having such a facility? Describe how graduate students will use the proposed facility or equipment. How will graduate programs at Vanderbilt be enhanced by establishing this capability?

3. **User Community – one page maximum per user, 12-pt. font.** Provide the following information for each major potential user of the proposed equipment/facility: (1) name and academic rank, (2) school, (3) department, (4) number of peer-reviewed publications per year for the most recent five-year period, (5) grant support (direct plus indirect costs) per year for the most recent five-year period, (6) a brief summary of his/her research program.

4. **Continuation – two-page maximum (including figures, tables, and references), 12-pt. font single spaced.** Outline a plan for maintenance and support of the facility after expiration of Discovery Grant Program funds, addressing the following questions: What will be the plan for operating and maintaining the instrumentation, including considerations of technician support and maintenance contracts? Will the facility be run as a user facility, or in the service mode where “samples” are brought to the facility to be measured, characterized, or processed by an operator? Will there be a usage charge, and how will the rate be determined? How will the salary support for any necessary personnel be handled in the near-term and in the long-term? Who will provide the long-term salary support for personnel if any projected income does not materialize?

5. **Internal Funding.** For each participating faculty member, disclose institutional resources available in the form of start-up funds or other discretionary research funds. All institutional research-support funds must be included, including endowed-chair funds, annual allocations, fixed-price contract surpluses, and other such sources. Please note any restrictions or obligations governing the use of such funds. External funding should be included in #6, c.v. (below).

6. **Budget.** Provide a budget for up to two years, indicating how the funds would be spent if an award were made. Be certain to mention any supplemental funds (amounts and sources) that will be applied to support the proposed research. Substantial matching funds will be required in this category. Matching fund sources and amounts must be included in the proposal budget.

7. **Curriculum Vitae - two page maximum per participating faculty member listed on the cover page.** Each c.v. should include at least the following information: Name, degrees and institutions, record of professional employment, the number (only) of articles published in peer-reviewed journals (only) for each of the last five years, full citations (title, authors, journal,
volume, page numbers, and date) for the five most recent publications, and record of grant support for the last five years (for each grant, provide: grant title; funding levels, including both direct costs and indirect costs; funding agency; and grant period).

Each participating faculty member may use a third c.v. page to list his/her record of graduate-student and postdoctoral-fellow supervision, listing only those for whom the faculty member served as the principal thesis/dissertation advisor or mentor.