

Faculty tap into \$1 Million to help land big grants through UCF's First SEED Funding Program

ORLANDO, Jan. 22, 2020 -- Twenty-nine projects from across the university that will position UCF to be more competitive when it comes to grant funding were awarded a total of \$1 million as part of UCF's first SEED Funding Program.

Principal Investigators will use the money to advance preliminary work needed before they can submit competitive proposals to national agencies with millions of dollars to spend for research results. These grants are highly competitive; several universities nationwide offer seed funding programs to help their researchers be among the best.

For a complete list of the winners [click here](#). Some highlights include:

Connecting Residents Experiencing Homelessness during Disasters and Emergency Situations
Fernando Rivera, Luis Santiago, Mohamed Zaki, Shaurya Agarwal, Yan Huang

Point-of-Care Compatible Diagnostic Platform for Detection of Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis
Kyle Rhode, Brian Kim, Yulia Gerasimova

Understanding the interplay between privacy policies and security of healthcare firms
Sung Choi Yoo

A Possible Way of Making World's First "Color" IR Camera
Debashis Chanda

Consumption Types and Consumer Adoption of Automation and Artificial Intelligence: The Role of Exclusivity
Xin He

What's in a meme? Identifying social media privacy perceptions and psychological correlates of online image sharing behaviors
Mary Amon

Symbiosis: The Center for Augmented Intelligent Human-Machine Symbiosis for Solving Societal Grand Challenges
Damla Turgut, Joseph LaViola, Mubarah Shah, Peter Hancock

UCF's new SEED Funding program, funded through the Office of Research and the Office of the Provost supports activities essential to advancing competitive research proposals for big grants.

Faculty submitted proposals to the SEED Funding committee for consideration in various categories. A total of \$580,000 was set aside for researchers to initiate new, high reward activities, which will strengthen faculty credentials and make them more competitive by

allowing them time to prepare preliminary data prior to submission to granting agencies. There was also additional money available for researchers to pay for use of shared research facilities around the nation and to test the feasibility of their proposed projects in terms of partnerships with industry.

There was another \$400,000 available to researchers to encourage new or expanded teams to engage in convergence activities that lead to externally funded grants that require preliminary data and proof of collaboration among different researchers. Funding can also be used to help plan compelling strategies for future funding, collaboration and partnerships with industry and at a national level.

“More than 140 teams submitted applications to the various categories offered this year and competition was stiff,” said Debra Reinhart, the Associate Vice President for Research and Scholarship. She and Enrique del Barco, the Associate Dean of Research in the College of Sciences led the initiative. They also served on the review panel (made up of Associate Deans for Research) that made the final selections.

Each category of awards had criteria proposals had to meet, but generally the review criteria included relevance to Florida and national priorities, technical and scientific merit, engagement and impact, qualification of the Principal Investigators, collaboration and likelihood of getting externally funded.

“It was a very competitive process,” del Barco said. “We look at this as an investment, which will lead to bigger awards that will make an impact in areas of energy, health and artificial intelligence, among others.”