

HEALTHCARE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Bucknell-Geisinger Research Initiative 2024 Request for Proposals

Bucknell University and Geisinger announce the 2024 Request for Proposals to provide funding support from the Bucknell-Geisinger Research Initiative (BGRI) for collaborative healthcare research projects between Bucknell faculty/staff and Geisinger physicians/clinicians/scientists. An important goal in offering this unique funding opportunity is to provide mechanisms for the establishment of long-term collaborative interactions that may also lead to peer-reviewed publications and subsequent external funding. Collaborative efforts and submission are encouraged (but not limited) to the following areas of inquiry:

Advanced Analytics/Predictive Models
Artificial Intelligence
Metabolic diseases or metabolomics
Bioethics
Biomedical Devices
Biomedical/Translational Informatics
Genomic Medicine

Health Economics
Healthcare Delivery and Systems
Imaging Sciences
Neurodevelopment and Autism
Neuroscience
Preparedness/pandemic-related
Supply Chain and Operations
Systems/Industrial Engineering

Proposals will be evaluated on the importance of the healthcare challenge being addressed, the quality of the scientific and design methods, the effective use of the requested funds, involvement of undergraduate students, potential for dissemination of results, and prospective future collaborative work or technology transfer beyond the grant period.

Funding for these opportunities will be made available in two stages, with Stage 1 initially targeted to a maximum of \$20,000 and Stage 2 targeted to a maximum of \$100,000. Funds are intended to support faculty, scientists, staff, students, travel, and project supplies. Stage 1 award periods will only be for one year. Generally, Stage 2 awards will also be for one year, but two years may be requested when the significance of the work and the work plan justify such a request. The two funding stages are defined as follows:

- Stage 1** Collaborative pilot projects for one year of support up to **\$20,000**. These projects represent areas of investigation that require initial resources to develop an idea or potential topic into a substantive project. Award recipients will be required to give a presentation of results from their project during the subsequent fall semester.
- Stage 2** Substantive, collaborative projects lasting up to two years requiring a maximum of **\$100,000** of support. The most competitive projects in this category are likely to be those that were invited for proposal based on a project that previously received BGRI funding and thereby demonstrated the benefits of the collaboration and the strength of the research. Stage 2 projects typically include the need for dedicated staffing, such as a postdoctoral researcher, laboratory technicians or programmers, and additional resources to gather the preliminary data required for external funding. Award recipients will be required to present their results shortly after the completion of their project.

Guidelines and restrictions regarding BGRI funds are as follows:

- Proposals must be jointly written and submitted by a Bucknell faculty member and a physician/clinician/scientist at Geisinger, with each party making significant contributions toward the effort. Each organization must receive a balanced portion of the budget. If the budget is not balanced between organizations, approximately 50-50, a rationale should be provided in the budget justification.
- Funding for projects involving human subjects will be contingent upon approval of the appropriate institutional review board.
- Funding is primarily for personnel, fringe benefits, consultants, supplies, domestic travel, and patient care. In compelling circumstances, equipment may also be supported with adequate justification.
- Overall, the optimal outcomes of these projects are significant results/data and a long-lasting collaboration that is likely to result in a sustained partnership, dissemination of peer-reviewed publications, and the pursuit of external funding.
- Potential for future external funding is of specific importance to Stage 2 projects.
- Bucknell faculty members may request up to one month of summer salary per year.
- Geisinger faculty may request salary support. It's suggested that a PI dedicate at least 5% effort. Geisinger salaries will be capped at \$200,000 in accordance with internal funding policies.
- Geisinger staff are encouraged to include project management support in their budgets.
- Project timelines should correspond to the dates provided below.
- It is not expected that investigators will receive multiple awards. The intent of this mechanism is to propel opportunities for extramural funding to support ongoing research endeavors.

Stage 1 and 2 Application Requirements:

- Completed Cover Sheet
- Project Description (include details on how the collaborators will interact, such as holding joint lab meetings, etc.)
- Project Budget
- CVs of Principal Investigators (PIs); biosketches will not be accepted
- Letter of Support from each PI's Department Chair
- If prior funding for a related BGRI project has been received, include updated Progress Report

Letter of intent deadline: February 23, 2024; email both osp@bucknell.edu and grantsupport@geisinger.edu and list PI/co-PI names, type of application (stage 1 or 2), and topic area.

Proposal submission deadline*: March 25, 2024

Funding Decisions: May 2024

Standard Start Date: June 1, 2024

Standard Completion Date: For Stage 1 projects, one year after start date. For Stage 2 projects, one year after start date is preferred, but a maximum of two years is allowable (*No-cost extensions will not be allowed.*)

Results Presentation Date: On or before November 1, 2025

Submission deadlines:

- *Both PIs must follow their institution's formal internal proposal compliance approval process and submit their materials through their respective approval channels by March 25th.
 - Bucknell PIs must submit the proposal through the Sponsored Projects Approval (SPA) online form: my.bucknell.edu/script/grantproposals/
 - Geisinger PIs must notify grantsupport@geisinger.edu with their intent to submit a proposal by February 23rd. The following Geisinger internal deadlines are based on the March 25th final due date and in accordance with the submission deadline policy.

For Geisinger PIs, the Geisinger internal deadlines for the following components are as follows:

- Monday, March 11th - Draft budget and justification for requested Bucknell and Geisinger costs.
- Monday, March 18th – Final budget and justification for requested Bucknell and Geisinger costs.
- Tuesday, March 19th – Final supplemental documents
 - Cover sheet
 - CVs
 - Letters of Support
 - Progress Report, if applicable
- Geisinger OSP will provide final approval and Consortium letter on Thursday, March 21st.

For Bucknell PIs:

- Monday, March 25th – Deadline to submit final proposal materials through the Bucknell SPA portal: (1) Cover sheet, Project Description, CVs, and Letters of Support as a single combined PDF; (2) Budget in the BGRI budget template spreadsheet, inclusive of Bucknell and Geisinger requested costs; (3) Budget justification for both Bucknell and Geisinger requested costs; and (4) if applicable, past BGRI funding progress report as a single PDF.

Geisinger OSP will provide a consortium letter to Bucknell OSP signifying budget approval for each proposal. Bucknell's OSP will share a final version of the combined budget with Geisinger's OSP staff once submitted and approved.

I. COVER SHEET

I.1 Project Title

Title of Project	
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I.2 Principal Investigator(s)

BUCKNELL	
Name	
Title	
Department	
Email	
Phone	

GEISINGER	
Name	
Title	
Department	
Email	
Phone	

I.3 Proposed Funding Dates

Proposed Start Date	
Proposed End Date	
If proposed start/end dates differ from the standard funding dates, please explain.	

II. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Applications must address the following areas with appropriate detail such that the importance, likelihood of success, and potential for future collaborative work may be determined.

- Background
- Specific Objectives
- *For Stage 2:* Overview of Results from Related Stage 1 Project
- Research Methodology and Approach
- Outcomes
- Potential for Work Beyond Grant Period
- *For Stage 2:*
 - Plan for Future External Funding – Description must include a commitment to a specific program(s), agency(ies), and deadline(s)
- Plan for Dissemination of Results

Note: Project descriptions must be less than four pages using a 12-point font with 1-inch margins on each side. References and a limited number of essential appendices do not count against the four-page limit.

Project Budget

All proposals must provide detailed information and justification for planned expenditures for personnel, fringe benefits, consultants, supplies, domestic travel, patient care, and other expenses as appropriate. In compelling circumstances, equipment may also be supported. Indirect costs are not allowed.

Budget Information

Budget information must be submitted in accordance with each institution's standard practices. A budget template for preparing a detailed budget (with Bucknell- and Geisinger-specific fringe rates) will be available for download at: www.bucknell.edu/bgri Additional budget and justification resources for Bucknell faculty are available under the OSPsite on my.bucknell.edu. Navigate to "Quick Links" -->"Administrative Offices"--> "Sponsored Projects" for more detailed information on OSP resources, policies and procedures. Institutional policies and procedures must be followed when preparing BGRI budgets.

BUDGET OVERVIEW AND JUSTIFICATION

(Not to exceed 2 pages combined from both organizations, 12-point font, 1" margins) While this funding opportunity is intended to support new or existing collaborative projects that currently do not have funding, researchers with current funding are welcome to apply and should describe existing resources of support.