The Office of the Dean would like to collaborate with KSOM departments and institutes to provide faculty members with funding for initial exploration of new research areas. Priority will be to obtain feasibility data that will lead to submission of new NIH R-series or other major research proposals. The primary target audiences include junior investigators starting a research program and established investigators moving to a new area of research that is clearly distinct from prior research. The eligibility requirements, terms, and application process are outlined below:

Eligibility Requirements (all required)
- Full-time KSOM or CHLA faculty member as of July 1, 2016
- Single or multiple PIs
- Co-Is from other USC schools will be allowed, but all funds will be disbursed directly through KSOM rather than through satellite accounts to other schools or purchase orders to CHLA if an award is issued.

Terms of Award
- Up to $37,500 for one year composed of a 2:1 ratio of funds from the Dean’s office and investigators’ home department(s). For example, the maximum award would be $25,000 from the Dean and $12,500 from the home department(s) of the participating investigator(s).
- Applications must include a letter of commitment specifying the amount and source(s) of the cost share.
- Applications from multiple departments can derive the cost share from any combination of participating departments; it is up to the investigators to secure the matching funds.
- A no-cost extension of up to one additional year may be granted upon review of a written request to the Dean of the Keck School.
- PI and co-PI faculty salaries should not be included in the budget.
- The Keck School anticipates making up to ten awards in FY17, utilizing funds from the Christiansen Estate Endowed Fund and additional funds from the Keck School Dean for the School’s contribution to awards.

How to Apply
- Submit Letter of Intent:
  - Due no later than 5 p.m. (PDT) on August 15, 2016
  - The letter of intent is optional, but will aid in securing the appropriate expertise on the
• Review panel.
  o Submit your letter by clicking here.

• Submit Proposal:
  o Due by 5 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, September 2, 2016.
  o the full application will include the following:
    ▪ cover page;
    ▪ ½-page abstract;
    ▪ focused (< 3 pages) research plan;
    ▪ <1-page bibliography;
    ▪ biosketches of all investigators;
    ▪ cost share letter signed by chair(s) and or director(s) of departments or institutes committing to the cost share;
    ▪ budget and budget justification.
  o Submit your letter of intent and full proposal via the following portal, which will be activated on August 3, 2016 by clicking here.

Applications will be considered incomplete and, therefore, not reviewed until all materials are submitted.

**Review and Award**

Applications will be peer-reviewed internally at USC using the following review criteria:

- **Innovation** of the research and **novelty** of the area of research to the PI(s)
- **Feasibility** of the primary hypothesis and/or **importance** of the stated purpose of the research
- **Approach**: Quality and appropriateness of the study design, methodology, data acquisition and analysis
- **Investigators**: Qualifications to conduct the proposed research
- **Resources and Environment**: Quality and availability of resources needed to conduct the research
- **Potential to lead to extramural funding**, focusing on three areas:
  1. specific justification regarding the nature of the data to be collected and how it will be used to strengthen one or more follow-on grant applications;
  2. milestones for collection of the data and timeline for submission of extramural application(s)
  3. specific funding mechanisms or opportunities that would be targeted for extramural funding applications

Recommendations for funding will be made by a committee appointed by the Dean of the Keck School, final approval will be done by the Dean.

**FY17 Review Timeline**

- Letter of intent (optional): 5 p.m. (PDT) August 15, 2016
- Application Deadline: 5 p.m. PDT on September 2, 2016
- Final Selection of Awardees: October 15, 2016
- Funding Initiation: November 1, 2016
- Progress Report due December 1, 2017 (unless no cost extension approved prior to this date)