Discovery Grants

Overview
The Discovery Grant Program is one of the primary ways Vanderbilt invests in advancing core disciplines, thereby strengthening the scholarly profile of the university. The program is designed to serve as a catalyst to significant external funding sources, supporting new ideas, cutting-edge research and the development of infrastructure. The Discovery Grant Program provides a springboard to make possible external grants that will be more attractive to large federal funding agencies such as the NSF, NIH, DoD, etc. This program is open to VU-employed faculty in all schools and colleges.

Eligibility Requirements
- This program is open to VU-employed faculty in all schools and colleges.
- Demonstrate an ability to attract new external funding.
- VUMC-employed faculty may collaborate but funds will only be distributed to the VU principal investigator (PI).
- Non-tenured faculty can be involved in important supporting roles.
- Proposals involving graduate students are encouraged.

Categories of Support
- **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 external 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.
- **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. These funds are to enable investigators to perform key preliminary investigations or studies in new areas of research prior to submitting external grant applications. Note: TIPs awards are for existing or emerging institutes and centers that are trans-institutional (multi and inter-disciplinary) in nature, whereas Discovery Grants are for earlier stage efforts that may later evolve into broader programs.
- **Infrastructure Grants:** Up to $100,000/year will be awarded for up to two years, for the establishment of facilities essential for disciplinary-focused research programs. Substantial matching funds are required in this category. Matching fund sources and amounts must be included in the proposal budget.

Key Dates
- **Proposal window open:** December 19, 2016
- **Proposals due:** January 30, 2017
- **Award announcements:** May 2017
- **Funds available:** July 1, 2017