
University of California Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI)

Applicant Webinar, 2027 Awards

February 2026

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

AGENDA

- Overview of the Program and Funding Opportunity
- Application Process
- Review and Scoring Criteria
- Key Dates
- Submitting a Letter of Intent
- Questions & Answers

UC Research Initiatives Research Grants Program Office

Programmatic questions should be directed to us at UCRI@ucop.edu

Director, UCRI

Anna Ward

Program Officers

Alison Annunziata

Betty Guo

Victoria Lee

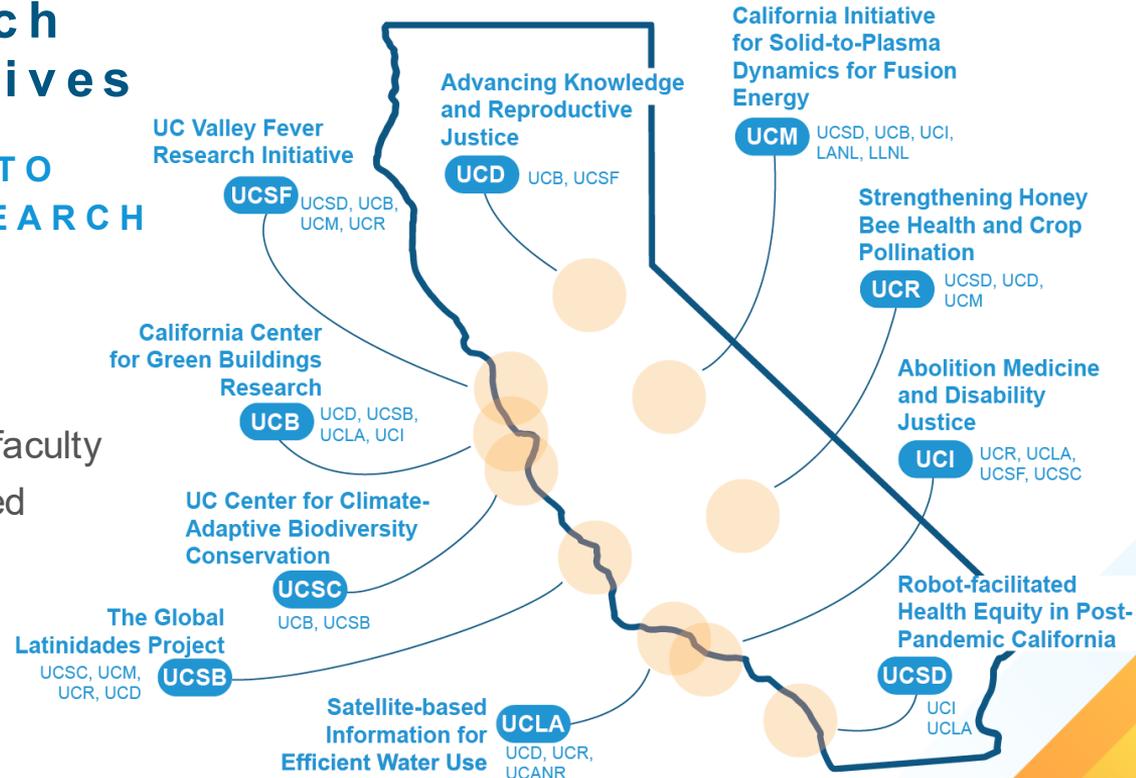
Leila Sievanen

Rebecca Stanek-Rykoff

Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

SYSTEMWIDE INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE UC RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

- ▶ 146 projects since 2009
- ▶ 55% of projects support early career faculty
- ▶ 1500 postdocs and students supported
- ▶ \$575M in leveraged extramural funds



MRPI Guiding Principles

- Enhance UC's systemwide research capacity and influence
- Advance multicampus collaborations through multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary engagement
- Create meaningful impact for UC and California

MRPI intends to support:

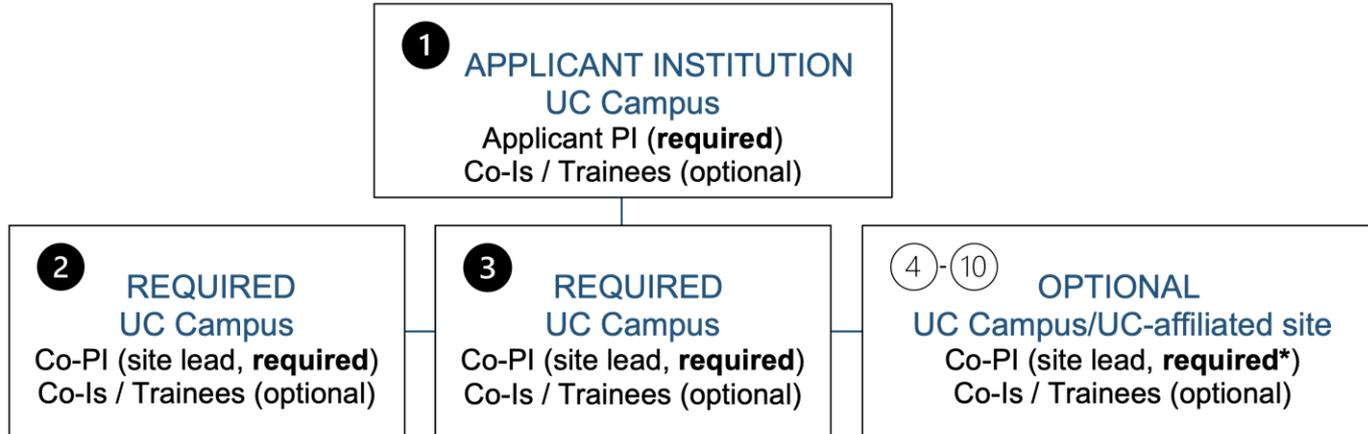
- Areas in which seed funding could lead to extramural funding;
- Areas that are underfunded by other sources in relation to their perceived importance to the state or the nation;
- Innovative, interdisciplinary research in emerging fields of study that could increase UC's research competitiveness

MRPI Key Elements

- Multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research that is high-impact, compelling, and innovative
- 3+ UC campuses
- Faculty/researchers across career stages
- Research and training opportunities for students

- ✓ 1 Applicant PI at host campus
- ✓ 1 Co-PI at each collaborating site
- ✓ Other team members are Co-I, trainee

MRPI Team Structure



Pilot Awards

Award Duration: 1 or 2 years

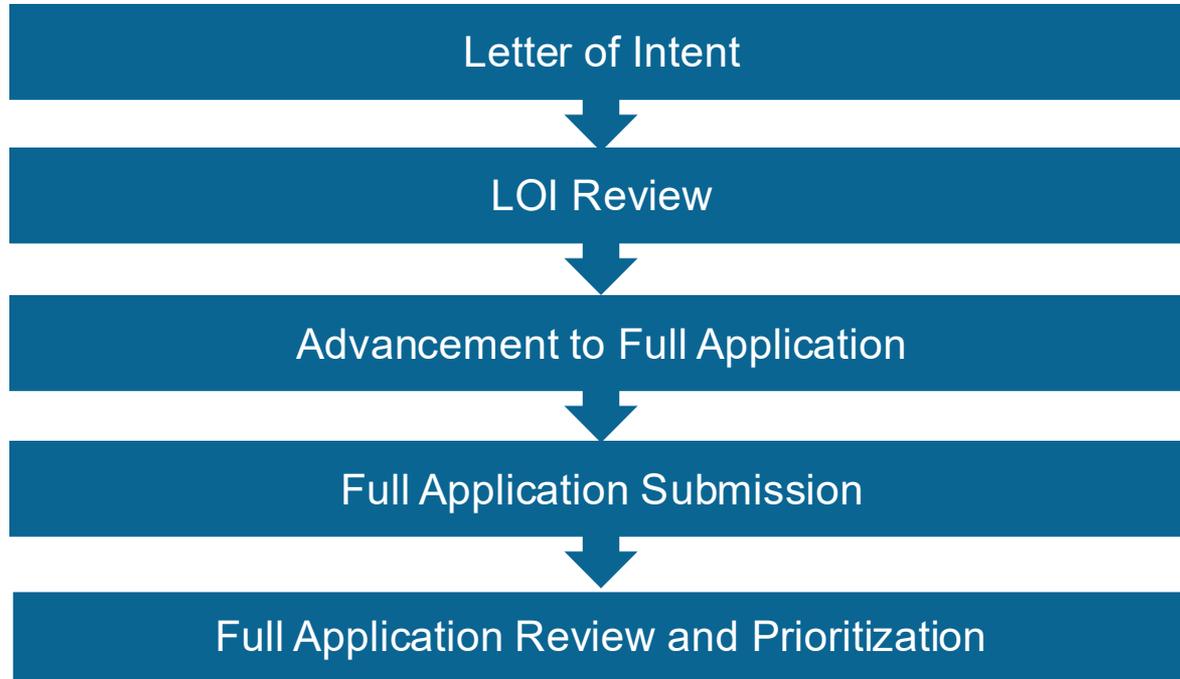
Funding Request: \$250,000/year maximum

Open to: New collaborations

Examples:

- Develop research capacity
- Training of students, postdocs
- Convening new multicampus workshops
- Generating new relationships within and outside the UC

Application Process – Overview



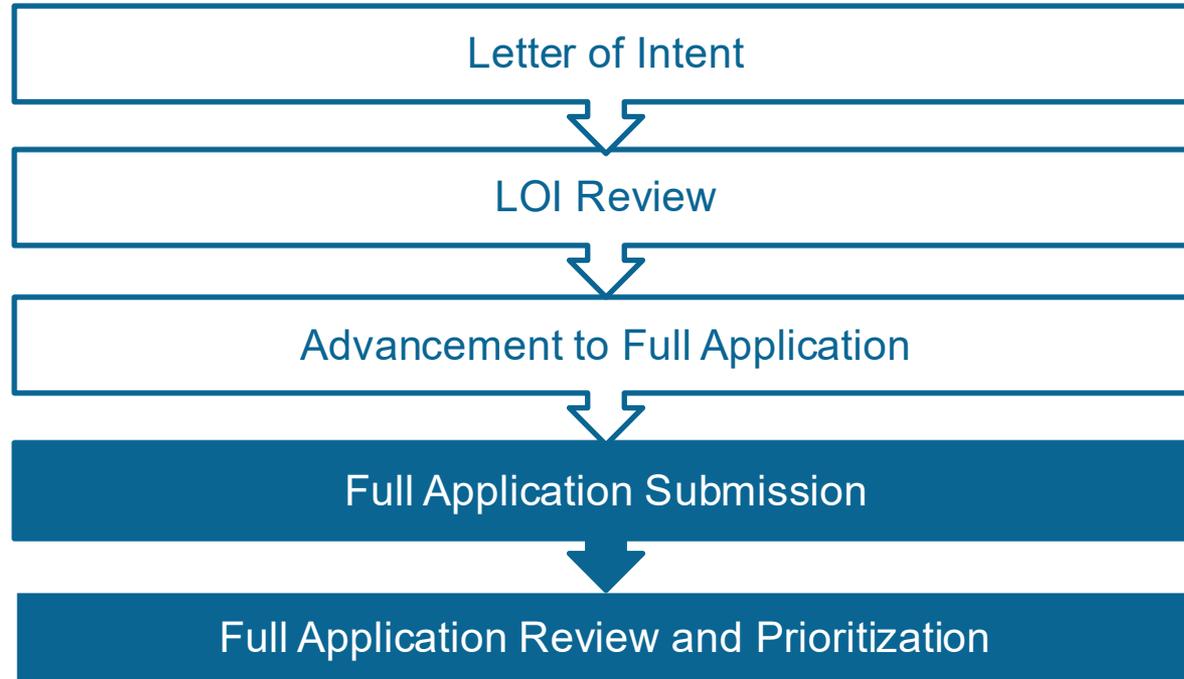
Letter of Intent (LOI)

Due date: March 19, 2026, 12 Noon Pacific Time

- Evaluated on:**
- Eligibility and completeness
 - Compliance with program requirements
 - Alignment with program goals and priorities

Not all LOIs will be invited to submit full applications

Application Process –Full Application Submission and Review



Full Application Scoring Criteria

- Research Excellence and Innovation
- Strength of Collaboration and UC Benefit
- Impact on California
- Quality of Graduate Student Training

Highly Competitive

- ~\$5.8M in total available funding for all awards
- Proposals should be in alignment with MRPI goals and priorities
- Adhere to budget guidelines in the RFP

Funded Research Database

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

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OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

IMPACT

FUNDED RESEARCH

New Cancer Research Fellowship

The CRCC is pleased to announce a new pre- and post-doctoral fellowship opportunity for 2026-27

LEARN MORE

CRCC Faculty Seed Grants

The 2026-27 Request for Proposals for the Cancer Research Coordinating Committee Faculty Seed Grants is now available

LEARN MORE

2026 UC-National Lab Collaborative Awards Announced

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2026 targeted opportunity in Fusion Research

LEARN MORE

2025 Multicampus Research Program Awards Announced

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2025 MRPI competition

LEARN MORE

ADVANCING
UC'S RESEARCH
MISSION

BENEFITING
CALIFORNIA

SUPPORTING UC
FACULTY

TRAINING AND
EDUCATING
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Funded Research Database

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Office of the President

Research Grants Program Office

FUNDED RESEARCH DATABASE

The University of California is committed to advancing discoveries that benefit California and the world. Search our research database to learn more about projects funded.

Search Database

Keywords Search by Keyword	Investigators Search and select	Institutions Search and select	Research Program UC Multicampus Research Programs a... ▼
Research Priority Search and select	Award Type Search and select	Date Range YYYY ▼	YYYY ▼

Search

[Link to funded research database](#)

Funded Research Database

Information available

- Investigators
- Award type
- Award amount
- Abstract(s)
- Publications

An interdisciplinary approach to the study of Spanish-English bilingualism in California

Investigators

Mark Amengual, Ph.D.
(amengual@usc.edu)
UC Santa Cruz

Ji Young Kim, Ph.D.
(jiyoungkim@ucla.edu)
UCLA

Justin Davidson, Ph.D.
(justindavidson@berkeley.edu)
UC Berkeley

Research Program

UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

Research Priority

Arts, Humanities, and Culture

Award Type

MRPI Planning/Pilot Award

Application ID

M23PL5866

Award Amount

\$266,815

Start Date

1/1/2023

Grant DOI

10.17920/G9WV5S

Abstract

This collaborative initiative will enhance the research capacity and leadership of the UC system to address the linguistic issues of language contact, language shift, and language maintenance in the Spanish-speaking population of California by developing a robust and linguistically rich corpus of bilingual Spanish-English speech samples (Multilingual Hispanic Speech in California; MuHSiC) culled from sociolinguistic interviews and naturalistic conversations among speakers of diverse social profiles and regional origins throughout California. The audio recordings will be made available on an open website where researchers, teachers, students, and the public will be able to access a linguistic map of California Spanish-English bilingual speech. This research has two main outcomes: (i) the creation of an open-source oral corpus of Spanish-English bilingual speech in California, and (ii) the inauguration of a conference on bilingualism and speech in California to disseminate the results and encourage cross-campus collaborations. The project will design a targeted research strategy for UC by involving graduate students, engaging underrepresented undergraduate students in field research experience, and engaging with multiple cities and counties in our state, ultimately establishing UC as an international leader in bilingualism research.

Progress Report Abstract

The main objective of this project is to create an open source robust and linguistically rich corpus of bilingual Spanish-English speech samples (Multilingual Hispanic Speech in California; MuHSiC) culled from sociolinguistic interview and naturalistic conversations among speakers of Spanish and English of diverse social profiles and regional origins throughout

Key Dates

Letters of Intent
(LOI) Due

Thursday
March 19,
2026
12 noon PT

Notification of
LOI Decision

Thursday
May 7, 2026
(expected)

Full Applications
Due

Thursday
Aug 6, 2026
12 noon PT

Award Start
Date

December 1,
2026



LOI Tips

- Consider MRPI goals and intent carefully
- Assemble MRPI leadership team (PI and Co-PIs)
- Co-PI Eligibility Form verifying PI status & eligibility
- Begin the LOI and application submission process early
- Use the LOI Submission Checklist

Accessing Smart Simple

Login to SmartSimple: <https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/>

The screenshot shows the SmartSimple login interface. At the top left, the University of California logo is visible. The main content area is titled "Welcome to Research Grants Program Office | UCOP" and contains introductory text about the RGPO and the SmartSimple system. On the right side, there is a "Login to SmartSimple" form with fields for "Email:" and "Password:" (with a placeholder "Enter Password"), a "Login" button, and links for "Forgot Password?" and "Privacy & Security".

Annotations on the page include:

- A red box with the text "Returning users login here" and a red arrow pointing to the "Login" button.
- A red box with the text "First-time users register here" and a red arrow pointing to a "Register Here" button located under the "Principal Investigator Registration" section.

Preparing and Submitting an LOI

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

< Home Available Funding Opportunities Historical Applications Grantee > 🔒 🔔 R

Available Funding Opportunities

List of available funding opportunities below includes both open and upcoming opportunities. All times are in military time and in the Pacific Time Zone.

1-5 of 5

#	Name	Description	Policies and Guidelines	LOI Deadline	Full Application Deadline	Info	Apply
4	MRPI 2023 Planning/Pilot Awards	MRPI funding supports innovative multicampus research collaborations that strengthen UC's position as a leading public research university. Planning/Pilot awards are open only to new multicampus or systemwide collaborations. The competition is open to all fields of scholarship. Applicants may request 1 or 2 years of funding.	2023_MRPI_RFP.pdf	05/12/2022 12:00:00	08/04/2022 12:00:00	Info	Apply
5	MRPI 2023 Program Awards	MRPI funding supports innovative multicampus research collaborations that strengthen UC's position as a leading public research university. Program Awards are open to both new and established collaborations as well as prior recipients of MRPI Planning awards. The competition is open to all fields of scholarship. Applicants may request 2, 3, or 4 years of funding.	2023_MRPI_RFP.pdf	05/12/2022 12:00:00	08/04/2022 12:00:00	Info	Apply

1. Click on the “Available Funding Opportunities” tab in the top row.
2. Find the row for MRPI 2027 Pilot Awards and click “Apply.”

Preparing and Submitting an LOI – Co-PI

Main

M25PL8824 - Stevens - RGPOTest Quick First Run (Pilot/Planning)

Letter of Intent RFP Details
Name: MRPI 2025 Planning/Pilot Awards
Deadline: 05/16/2024 12:00:00 Noon Pacific Time

Templates and Instructions:

- 2025_MRPI_RFP.pdf
1.4 MB - 03/18/2024 3:47PM
- LOI_Submission_Checklist.pdf
99 KB - 03/14/2024 9:36AM

Preview

TITLE PAGE APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR PROJECT INFORMATION **PROJECT CONTACTS** BUDGET SIGNATURE PAGE

Project Personnel

One Co-PI Eligibility Form is required for each Co-PI:
[Co-PI Eligibility Form](#)

Enter Project Personnel

First Name	Last Name	Email Address	Degrees	Title	Department	Institution	Role on Project	Institution Type	PI/Co-PI	Upload Biosketch	Biosketch
Hi	Hello	hi@hello.edu	PhD	Professor	Oncology	UC San Diego	Applicant Principal Investigator	Academic/Research Institution	Laurie Stevens	<input type="button" value="Upload"/>	Test_File_Biosketch_for_SmartSimple_Testing.pdf

Save Draft Submit LOI Withdraw

BACK NEXT

JUMP TO
Project Personnel

Total Files: 2

Provide this form to each Co-PI

Preparing and Submitting an LOI - Uploads

1. Click "Enter Project Personnel" to enter Applicant PI and Co-PI details and Save Draft

▼ Project Personnel

One Co-PI Eligibility Form is required for each Co-PI:

[Co-PI Eligibility Form](#)

 Enter Project Personnel

First Name	Last Name	Email Address	Degrees	Title	Department	Institution	Role on Project	Institution Type	PI/Co-PI	Upload Biosketch	Biosketch
Hi	Hello	hi@hello.edu	PhD	Professor	Oncology	UC San Diego	Applicant Principal Investigator	Academic/Research Institution	Hi Hello	<input type="button" value="Upload"/>	Test File Biosketch for SmartSimple Testing.pdf
Joe	Smith	testing@ucmm.edu	PhD	Professor	Biochemistry	UC Mercy Merced	Co-Principal Investigator	Academic/Research Institution	Hi Hello	<input type="button" value="Upload"/>	Biosketch for Co-PI with Eligibility Form (test).pdf

2. Click "Upload" to upload the biosketch and Co-PI Eligibility Form for each Co-PI

Accessing Your Draft LOI

The screenshot displays the SmartSimple dashboard for the University of California. At the top, a navigation bar includes the University of California logo and links for Home, Available Funding Opportunities, Historical Applications, and Grantee Instructions. The 'Home' link is circled in red with a '1' next to it. Below this is a 'My Applications' section with four cards: 'In Progress Applications' (1), 'Submitted / Under Review Applications' (1), 'Awarded Applications' (0), and 'Assigned Actions - Signing Official' (0). The first two cards are circled in red with '2' and '3' respectively. Below that is an 'Assigned Actions' section with five cards, all showing 0 counts: 'Deliverables', 'Pending Letters of Reference', 'Pending Subcontracts', 'Grant Agreements for Review', and 'Pending Project Contributions'.

My Applications			
2	1	0	0
In Progress Applications	Submitted / Under Review Applications	Awarded Applications	Assigned Actions - Signing Official

Assigned Actions				
0	0	0	0	0
Deliverables	Pending Letters of Reference	Pending Subcontracts	Grant Agreements for Review	Pending Project Contributions

1. Click the “Home” link in the upper-left hand corner of the screen
Note: you should by default land on this dashboard when you log into SmartSimple
2. Click “In Progress Applications” to access your draft LOI
3. After submission of an LOI or Full Application, the record can be found under “Submitted/Under Review Applications”

Common LOI Errors

- Project Personnel Table- Correct Roles
 - *One Applicant PI* at applicant campus
 - *One Co-PI* at each of the other collaborating locations
 - Other collaborators are *Co-Is or Trainees* (identified only at FA stage)
- Provide a UC/institutional email for each project team member
- Limit biosketches/CVs to 3 pages each
- Co-PI Eligibility Form needed for each Co-PI

I still have questions....

- Ask them today
- Read the RFP, FAQs, and LOI instructions
- Visit our website

www.ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/mrpi

- Contact us as questions arise

Contact Information

FOR SMARTSIMPLE SUPPORT:

Research Grants

Program Office (RGPO)

RGPOGrants@ucop.edu

FOR PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS:

University of California Research

Initiatives (UCRI)

UCRI@ucop.edu

Thank you

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