The Dean for Research requests applications designed to target innovative multidisciplinary biomedical research. Awards will be made under three mechanisms: The Partners in Research Annual Awards, The Partners in Research Breakthrough Award, and the Dean’s Toulmin Pilot Projects. The program is open to faculty in the Biomedical Graduate Research Organization (BGRO), the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center (LCCC), the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SNHS), and the School of Medicine (SOM). Submissions must be emailed to gumcresearch@georgetown.edu no later than Monday, April 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. Research projects which were considered for limited submission opportunities or for prior pilot funding mechanisms, but were not selected are encouraged to apply. All applications will be considered for the annual Partners in Research awards and the Toulmin Pilot Awards.

Award Mechanisms:

Dean’s Toulmin Pilot Projects:
The Dean’s Toulmin Pilot Project Awards are intended to support and advance the research mission of GUMC consistent with the outcomes of the GUMC Strategic Planning Initiative. Awards will support innovative research projects that have significant potential to attract additional funding in this challenging environment. Progress reports will be requested at midyear and year-end. As always, all PIs are encouraged to collaborate across sectors and campuses. There is no indirect cost recovery with these pilot grants. Upon selection, all awardees will acknowledge budget rules and research timelines.

Partners in Research Projects:
The Partners In Research Award is intended to support high risk, high reward multidisciplinary research, particularly in areas defined as being strategically aligned with GUMC. This program was designed to engage donors by providing them with a front-row seat to biomedical research. The most successful projects are those which allow donors to easily relate to the science and its impacts on humanity, such as breast cancer, neuro-generative diseases, and long-term chronic diseases. Grantees must be available to present their proposals at the Partners meeting at a date to be mutually agreeable; write a one page mid-winter project update, be available for a tour of their laboratory in early spring, write a one page final report, and be present at the late spring showcase to unveil their research findings. Upon selection, all awardees will acknowledge budget rules and research timelines.

Partners in Research Breakthrough Award:
The Breakthrough Award is for previous recipients who have shown not only great promise with the Partners in Research project, but also has an ongoing commitment to working with donors and building these critical relationships. Selected applicants will present their project to the Partners at a fall 2018 event; the Partners vote on which research projects from those presented will receive funding and follow their progress throughout the academic year. Only prior Partners recipients are eligible to apply for this award and their proposal must relate to their initial award. One award is available at $100,000. All eligibility criteria apply except for FY18 Partners recipients who are eligible to apply.
Eligibility:
Candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria:

i. Recipients of an FY18 award are not eligible to apply for an FY19 award (exception applies to FY18 Partners in Research recipients).

ii. The principal investigator must have their primary appointment at Georgetown University Medical Center or MGUH and hold a **full-time faculty position** at Georgetown University, e.g., MedStar employees at MGUH are eligible to apply if they have a GUMC faculty appointment, whereas MedStar employees with a primary appointment at another hospital are ineligible; adjunct faculty who are not employed full-time are ineligible.

iii. Have access to adequate resources (e.g., existing laboratory space, capital equipment, etc.) to perform the proposed research;

iv. Multi-PI and multidisciplinary applications that cross GUMC units are strongly encouraged;

v. A GUMC PI may include co-PIs, co-investigators, or collaborators from anywhere within GU (Main Campus or Law Center) or at other domestic or foreign institutions (some funding limitations apply – see Budget below);

vi. A PI can submit one application.
   a. There is no limitation on the number of awards in which a faculty member can participate as a co-investigator/collaborator/consultant.

vii. IACUC or IRB protocols must be initiated by the time of submission. No studies may begin without protocol approval and subject consent.

Application Guidelines:
Applicants should submit the following materials:

a. **Cover Page** *(1 page)*
   i. Attached to this application and available by emailing GUMCResearch@georgetown.edu.

b. **Current curriculum vitae** *(5 pages total)*
   i. Use NIH format
   ii. Must include Other Support
   iii. Submit biosketches for the PI and key personnel only (do not include postdocs, students, etc.)

c. **Budget** *(1 page)*
   i. Use the standard NIH budget format. Applications not following this format may be returned. Be specific with regard to supplies.
   ii. Consult with your financial analyst to ensure correct fringe rate. Any salary offset must include these rates; be sure to use these rates when developing the budget.

d. **Budget justification** *(1 page)*
   i. Describe how the award money will be spent by June 30, 2019. See budget guidelines and limitations below.

e. **Resources and Environment** *(1 page)*

f. **Research Plan** describing the project following NIH format in **no more than 4 pages** *(suggested page guidelines for the 4-page Research Plan are provided in parentheses):*
   i. Specific Aims and Hypothesis (1 page)
   ii. Background and Preliminary Data (1 page)
   iii. Experimental Design and Methods (2 pages)
   iv. References (not included in the 4 page limit)

g. **Strategic Alignment** *(1 page)*
   i. Statement indicating how this award will advance the applicant’s research
ii. Description of how this research is aligned with one of GUMC’s five strategic areas.

h. If the Research Plan is related to a NIH submission that had been submitted once (01 application), but was not funded in this first round
   i. Provide a copy of the summary statement
   ii. Include a brief (1 page) rebuttal that explains how a pilot award will assist in addressing the weaknesses identified in the summary statement
   iii. The pilot project must be substantially completed prior to any submission of a revised (01A1) application (e.g. you should not consider submitting for the October NIH deadlines)

i. Letter of support from the department chair (or Chairs if Co-PIs from different departments) (1 page).
   i. Indicate that the research team has the capacity to carry out the proposed work
   ii. Brief evaluation of the likelihood to obtain extramural funding

j. Letters of support and/or agreement from any collaborators (1 page each)

Budget:

- Awards will be made at the $25,000 level (Toulmin), $50,000 level (Toulmin and PIR), and at the $100,000 level (PIR Breakthrough Award only). Note that no IDC is awarded. Smaller budgets are encouraged.
- Funds may be requested for supplies, travel, non-capital equipment (equipment below $5,000), and use of shared resource services at Georgetown University.
- Resources may also be used to offset existing salary effort in support of the research as provided by research track faculty, tenure-track faculty, laboratory technicians, trainees (e.g., graduate students, postgraduate fellows, residents, medical students) and undergraduate students (only at the $50,000 and $100,000 award levels).
- Funds for salary support may not be used for bonuses or other incremental increases to faculty, staff, or student compensation, which must follow current GUMC guidelines, e.g., as described in the current faculty compensation plan.
- Funds should not support tenured faculty salaries or relieve existing bridge support.
- GUMC funds can be used to support salary effort and other allowable expenses at other GU units (Law Center and College) consistent with their respective faculty compensation plans.
- GUMC funds cannot be used for subcontracts to other institutions outside GU; this restriction includes services.
- Once awarded, any reallocations within the budget will require approval by the Dean for Research and/or the AVP/Chief Business Officer.
- Toulmin awards funding will be available for spending July 1, 2018 and must be fully expended before June 30, 2019. No funds will carry over beyond June 30, 2019.

Peer Review:
A committee appointed by the Dean for Research will judge applications primarily (but not exclusively) on their scientific merit and the potential for future extramural funding. The Dean for Research will establish and chair the study section. Where possible, panel membership will reflect the areas of expertise needed to adequately evaluate the research proposals submitted by the faculty. The panel will be primarily GUMC faculty, including MedStar Health. Other than institutional affiliation conflicts, NIH conflict of interest requirements will be followed. All peer review will be fully confidential. During the peer review, the budget component will be approved by the AVP/Chief Business Officer and any changes to the awards pilots will be noted before funding is released.
Review Criteria:

- Innovation (as defined by NIH)
- Significance (as defined by NIH)
- Approach (as defined by NIH)
- Resources and Environment (as defined by NIH)
- Likelihood of attracting external funding
  - Preference will be given to proposals that are submitted in support of an NIH application where the applicant(s) are clearly being responsive to the Summary Statement and the pilot award is considered to improve significantly the likelihood of success for the -01A1 submission
  - Support for NIH applications can be either new or competitive renewal submissions
- Alignment with the strategic research priorities defined by GUMC (Aging & Age Related Diseases, Brain & Behavior, Cancer, Global Health, Population Health)
- Preference will generally be given to innovative, multidisciplinary research that currently does not have extensive extramural funding
- Budget – is the request appropriate for the award. Unlike NIH, this will be a score driving review consideration

Timeline following Peer Review:

- The peer review process should be completed by June 2018.
- Investigators who have been funded under the Dean’s Toulmin Pilot Project Awards will be notified immediately and funds will be available on or about July 1, 2018.
- Investigators who have been selected as finalists under the Partners In Research mechanism will be contacted to prepare for their presentation to the Partners over the summer months.

Questions about the application process should be directed to Jennifer Kluge at ext. 7-2502 or jck67@georgetown.edu. Do not send applications to Jennifer Kluge, instead:

Submissions must be submitted to gumcresearch@georgetown.edu no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018.