OBJEKTIVES: The National Science Foundation (NSF), Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program serves to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education and not-for-profit scientific/engineering research organizations. An MRI award supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs.

The MRI provides support to acquire critical research instrumentation without which advances in fundamental science and engineering research may not otherwise occur. MRI also provides support to develop next-generation research instruments that open new opportunities to advance the frontiers in science and engineering research. Additionally, an MRI award is expected to enhance research training of students who will become the next generation of instrument users, designers and builders.

An MRI proposal may request up to $4 million for either acquisition or development of a research instrument. Beginning with the FY 2018 competition, each performing organization may submit in revised “Tracks” as defined below, with no more than two submissions in Track 1 and no more than one submission in Track 2.

FUNDING INFORMATION:

- **Track 1**: Track 1 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to $100,000 and less than $1 million.
- **Track 2**: Track 2 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to $1 million up to and including $4 million.

Consistent with the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-69), cost sharing of precisely 30 percent of the total project cost is required for PhD-granting institutions of higher education and for non-degree-granting organizations. Non-PhD-granting institutions of higher education are exempt from the cost-sharing requirement and cannot include it. National Science Board policy prohibits voluntary committed cost sharing.

*Please see the solicitation text for organizational definitions used by the MRI program.*

ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS: The MRI Program especially seeks broad representation of PIs in its award portfolio, including women, underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities. Since
demographic diversity may be greater among early-career researchers the MRI program also encourages proposals with early-career PIs and proposals that benefit early-career researchers.

- Track 1 is limited to 2 applications per institution.
- Track 2 is limited to 1 application per institution.

INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS: Interested BUMC investigators should submit the following materials listed below via InfoReady Review by Monday, Oct. 5, 2020. If you are a BMC investigator and wish to apply for this opportunity, please contact Jennifer Fleming, Director of Foundation Relations and Government Grants at jennifer.fleming@bmc.org by Monday, Aug. 17, 2020.

- Questions outlined in InfoReady Review application;
- A letter of recommendation from the appropriate department chair or dean;
- A brief (two-page) statement by the candidate describing the proposed instrumentation, the need for the instrumentation, the potential impact of the instrumentation, and a description of the proposed development process for the instrumentation if applicable (please include a clear indication of which funding track the proposal targets in this statement);
- A proposed cost share plan for the instrumentation;
- A brief proposed management plan for the instrumentation (one-page) including the proposed location for the instrument and how the instrument will be supported;
- Up-to-date CV or Biosketch for all team members on the proposal.

A faculty committee drawn from both campuses will review internal proposals and select nominees.

DEADLINES: Internal Materials Due: Monday, Oct 5, 2020 | Sponsor Deadline: Submission Window: Friday, Jan. 1 to Tuesday Jan. 19, 2021

In requesting to be considered for this limited submission funding opportunity, you are making a commitment, if selected, to submit your proposal to the sponsor in a timely manner and to Sponsored Programs in accordance with the Proposal Submission Policy.