**Objective**

Funding educational pilot research grants will benefit the recipient and BUSM:

* The grants will facilitate career advancement of educators by promoting academic scholarship;
* The grants will enhance educator vitality and retention by fostering role diversity and career mastery;
* The resulting research findings will enhance the training of medical students, residents, fellows, and postdocs.

**Eligibility**

Clinician and scientist educators with primary faculty appointments in the Department of Medicine are eligible to request pilot funding for educational research once every two years.

Appropriate projects for funding include:

* Evaluation of pedagogical innovation
* Development of a curriculum
* Qualitative assessments of learning
* Systematic literature reviews
* Integration of technology into teaching
* Test of mentoring models
* Assessment of educational needs
* Pilot work for educational studies

**Funds available**

Department of Medicine may award up to $12,000 in funds per year. Applicants may request up to $6,000 per proposal. The funds may be applied to the cost of:

* Direct salary support for PI
* Supplies and small equipment
* Research assistants
* Consultants (e.g. evaluators, statisticians, etc.)
* Compensation to research subjects

**Application elements**

Applicants will complete an online form that includes narrative descriptions for:

* Specific aims
* Innovation
* Background and significance
* Preliminary research and investigator preparation
* Proposed methods
* Potential outcomes and benefits
* Mentoring plan
* Relevance to career goals
* Anticipated scholarly product(s) (e.g. manuscript, MedEdPORTAL submission, grant)
* Detailed budget and timeline
* Commitment to attend quarterly learning community meetings

The entire application may not exceed 1,000 words. In addition, the applicant must submit a CV in the BU format.

**Schedule**

The call for applications will circulate each year in April via e-mails to the Department of Medicine faculty distribution list and messages to the section chiefs. The deadline for completed submissions will be May 15 with project start dates no earlier than July 1.

**Evaluation criteria**

The Faculty Development and Diversity Committee will serve as the review committee for determining awardees. The committee will consult non-committee experts as needed. They will score applications based on the following criteria:

* Innovation of proposed project
* Adequate methods and expertise to achieve the stated goals
* Likelihood of educational benefits for trainees in the Department of Medicine
* Potential for scholarly products
* Contribution to applicant’s career advancement

The committee will provide written feedback to all applicants.

**Reporting back**

Each year’s grantees will form a learning community that will meet quarterly to provide peer mentoring. An experienced medical educator will also attend to offer research guidance.

All awardees must submit a progress report by June 1 of the year following the receipt of the grant.

**Evaluation**

The Director of Faculty Development and Diversity will collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Items to track include:

* Publications in peer-reviewed journals
* Presentations at conferences
* New curricula implemented
* Materials published in MedEdPORTAL
* Receipt of external grants
* Academic promotion

The Faculty Development and Diversity Committee will review the metrics annually.