

Request for Proposals

Patton Trust Research Grants

APPLICATION DEADLINES

1. Letter of Intent (LOI) is due by 5:00 pm on June 05th 2026
2. By invitation, full proposals and applications must be received by 5:00 pm on August 25th 2026
3. Award funding begins in November 2026

Award

BioNexus KC is pleased to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) on behalf of the Paul Patton Trust for two sponsored research grants, each not to exceed **\$50,000 over a one-year period**.

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Background

BioNexus KC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization which serves as the coordinating body for the Kansas City region’s life science research initiatives by functioning as a facilitator, matchmaker, and potential funder of collaborative research initiatives and assisting in the commercialization of resulting intellectual property.

Funding for this grant program is provided by the Paul Patton Trust and Bank of America, N.A., Trustees. Established as a private philanthropic foundation, the Paul Patton Charitable Trust is dedicated to improving human lives through the advancement of medical science and the support of charitable services. Managed often in collaboration with institutional trust divisions, the organization directs its resources to fund scientific research into the treatment and prevention of diseases. The Trust is recognized for its strategic commitment to "seed" funding, offering research development grants that allow investigators to generate the critical preliminary data necessary to secure larger federal honors. By bridging the gap between innovative concepts and large-scale medical breakthroughs, the Trust acts as a vital catalyst for regional healthcare development and the long-term support of vulnerable populations.

Eligibility

All full-time researchers at BioNexus KC key stakeholder institutions are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Proposals including evidence of planned inter-institutional collaborative research are preferred for this funding program, but not an absolute requirement. A lead stakeholder institution must be identified and the Principal Investigator must be from that institution. Additional investigators should be listed as co-principal or collaborating investigators. BioNexus stakeholder institutions include:

- Children's Mercy
- Saint Luke's Hospital
- Kansas City University
- Kansas State University
- University Health
- University of Kansas
- University of Kansas Medical Center
- University of Missouri – Columbia
- University of Missouri Kansas City
- University of Central Missouri

Background

This RFP aims to stimulate the development of major multidisciplinary research proposals from life science investigators for submission to government or private agencies. BioNexus KC supports this goal by funding research development grants that generate the critical preliminary data necessary for competitive external proposals. We invite proposals for multidisciplinary, collaborative research development grants consistent with the scope of this RFP. Awards are limited to \$50,000 for one year and are intended to leverage investigator and facility strengths to secure future external funding. The total number of awards is subject to fund availability.

Scope

Patton Trust Research grant proposals must focus on the genetic basis of diseases predominately affecting children. Submissions should clearly outline how the research team will generate the critical preliminary data necessary for future follow-on funding from external agencies. We encourage all proposals consistent with this theme.

Review Criteria

- A. Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Proposals must address important and relevant question/s as detailed in the "SCOPE" of this RFP.
- B. LOIs and Proposals should describe how the research project will enable the support and development of competitive proposal/s seeking follow-on external funding from government and/or private agencies. Proposals should clearly articulate the institution's expectations regarding the potential for long-term research expansion in related fields..
- C. Merit review criteria are essentially the same as those used by federal granting agencies such as NIH and NSF. Criteria include scientific and technical significance, innovation, approach, and likelihood of success in achieving follow-on external funding.

- D. Qualifications and research experience of the Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigators, and collaborating investigators are important considerations.
- E. Proposals must present a realistic scope of work for the one-year period of funding and include delineated milestones. The feasibility of the one-year period only pertains to completing the outlined experiments and not the realization of anticipated research outcomes.
- F. Appropriateness of the proposed budget.
- G. Research publication plan, if applicable.

Application Procedure – Letter of Intent (LOI)

---Submitted to Randy Logan (randy@bionexuskc.org), Scientific Director, BioNexus KC, by 05Jun2026

The Letter of Intent (LOI) must include the following:

- A. The principal investigator's name, project title, organization, address, phone number, and email address.
Note: the project title should describe the research project, not "Patton Trust Research Grant"
Note- IRB and/or IACUC approval are not required at the LOI stage.
- B. A summary of your project (not to exceed 1 page) including the following information:
 - a. Very brief review of relevant literature
 - b. Problem statement and root cause analysis of the problem
 - c. Project description
 - d. Project deliverables and associated implementation plan
 - e. Success measures
 - f. Relevance to Patton Trust RFP "Scope" and potential for impact beyond this proposal
 - g. Funding estimate including indirect expenses (not to exceed 10%)
 - h. Project timelines
 - i. If applicable, potential for new innovations and potential for research collaborations
- C. Disclosure statement of any conflict of interest for each investigator or 501(c)(3) institution acting as a financial partner.
- D. LOIs either must bear signatures (scanned or digital) of all collaborating investigators or be accompanied by separate commitment letters from each collaborating investigator/s bearing signatures (scanned or digital).
- E. After review of all LOIs received, select projects will be invited to submit full proposals.

Application Procedure – Full Proposals

--Submit to Randy Logan (randy@bionexuskc.org), Scientific Director, BioNexus KC by 5:00pm on 25Aug2026.

Note- IRB and/or IACUC approval are only required if the proposal is selected for funding.

The full proposal must contain the following:

- A. Full proposals should use the latest version of PHS 398 forms available electronically at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. Institutional administrative review and approval of applications by all applicable stakeholder institutions must be completed prior to submission.
- B. Full proposal should be submitted via email in an editable PDF format (not imaged) prior to the stated deadline for full consideration.
- C. Strict compliance with the following criteria is necessary in preparing the proposal:

- a. The Face Page should identify only the lead institution, Principal Investigator, a digital signature from the institution's signing official, and other required information about the lead institution.
- b. The Description, Performance Sites, and Key Personnel should clearly detail collaborating investigators and institutions.
- c. The Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period Page must be used and should reflect the following:
 - i. Requests may be up to \$50,000 for one year.
 - ii. Salary and fringe benefits may be requested and must be in accordance with set institutional guidelines.
 - iii. Indirect cost rates may not exceed 10% of total costs and must be included within the \$50,000 total limit.
 - iv. Equipment requests may not exceed 20% of the total funding request. Equipment is defined as any tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost over \$5,000.
 - v. The budget and budget justification should only represent funds requested of BioNexus KC.
- d. Separate budget justification page must follow the budget page and detail the rationale for all budget requests. Supply items should be summarized within major categories. The budget and budget justification should clearly delineate which costs will be incurred at each institution. One option is to submit a combined budget along with sub-budgets for each institution. Another option is to subcontract with collaborating institutions and provide the supporting budget form. In the case when other funding sources are proposed to be combined with anticipated BioNexus grant funds, the source of funds, funding amount, and role of the funds in the proposed project must be clearly delineated.
- e. **Do not include** the Budget for 'Entire Proposed Period of Support Page.'
- f. The NIH biographical sketch form 398/2590, (also found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>) must be used for each investigator and **must not exceed three pages** for each investigator. The Principal Investigator's Biographical Sketch Format Pages must be first followed all other investigators. The bio-sketches must be provided as an appendix.
- g. The Resources Format Page must detail resources that are to be used at the collaborating institutions toward completion of the project. Use additional pages as necessary.
- h. **Do not include** the 'Checklist' / 'Checklist Form Page' or the 'All Personnel Report' Form Page
- i. The "Research Plan" must be no more than 10 pages (page count excludes other forms and documents), single-line spaced, 12 pt. Arial or Times New Roman font with one-inch margins throughout.

Full Proposal "Research Plan" Format

In no more than 10 pages (excludes other PHS 398 pages, forms, and appendices), the full proposal's "Research Plan" must be organized as follows:

Problem Statement:

Provide a brief description of the problem addressed in the proposed project, its importance, and the research project that will be undertaken.

Project Description:

- a. **Objectives and Activities** – State the project's principal objectives and explain what activities will help accomplish these objectives. Include the research hypothesis.
- b. **Significance** – Detail how this project will support the RFP's 'SCOPE' section above.

- c. **Deliverables and Outcomes** – Describe the project’s deliverables and expected outcomes. Define outcomes measures, and any applicable benchmarks or comparative measures. If applicable, clearly outline the inclusion and exclusion criteria for research subjects. Describe pre- and post-intervention measures, and explain how control groups, subpopulations or cohorts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the research interventions.
- d. **Research Method** – Describe the project’s data sources, data collection methods, and analysis.
- e. **Staffing & Resources** – Identify the principal project staff, key partners and collaborators necessary to achieve the project’s objectives. Also describe other resources such as in-kind services applicable to your project and identify other funding sources and amounts.
- f. **Funding Sources and Budget** – Provide an outline of estimated funding and a detailed budget for the project. Describe all funding contributions and/or requests. Provide details for indirect expenses. Note: Funding for indirect expenses is limited to 10% of total costs.
- g. **Communications** – Describe the project communication plan. Describe special audiences (e.g., state policymakers, hospital CEOs, medical organizations, and the public) you will need to reach to achieve your project’s objectives; messages you plan to deliver; and how you will deliver these messages.
- h. **Timeline** – Provide a project timeline to include major milestones and communication activities. The timeline does not need to guarantee results or outcomes of a hypothesis.

Appendices:

- a. **Lay executive summary:** Please provide a lay executive summary of no more than one page. Use 12-pt. Arial or Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. Do not reuse the abstract or summary statements provided elsewhere in the application. To ensure clarity, please write at an 8th-grade reading level. This summary serves as the primary document for Dennis Ridenour, President & CEO of BioNexus KC, when presenting funding recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- b. **Signed letters of commitment:** include original signatures (digital or scanned), from each Co-Principal Investigator, collaborative research investigator, and the President and CEO or Executive Director of collaborating organizations named in the budget must be provided as an appendix. Note: signatures obtained on the original letter of intent cannot be substituted for this requirement.
- c. **Proposed publication plan:** describe the proposed peer-reviewed publication plan of study results.
- d. **Potential for new innovations or collaborations:** If applicable, describe the potential for new innovations, collaborations, intellectual property management/ownership, or pathways for commercialization, that might result from the project,
- e. **IRB and/or IACUC approval:** IRB and/or IACUC approval is only required if the proposal is selected for funding. Once selected for funding, BioNexus KC will request documentation proving IRB and/or IACUC approval from the PI. Once verified, funding will be available for distribution.

Proposal Review Process

Proposals will undergo an initial administrative review by BioNexus KC staff to assure compliance with submission requirements detailed in the RFP. Proposals will then be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by peer review and assigned NIH-type priority scores (see <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/peer-review/simplifying-review/framework>).

Upon receipt of peer review scores, BioNexus KC will rank the proposals and make a funding recommendation for consideration by the Board of Directors. Individuals will be excluded from review and discussion of proposals in which they have a real or apparent conflict of interest.

In addition to the regular progress and financial reports to BioNexus KC, the principal investigators may be invited to present their project and outcomes to showcase events at the conclusion of the grant.

Submission Instructions

1. Submit an electronic, editable PDF (not imaged) of the LOI or full proposal application (full proposal if invited) to:
Randy Logan, PhD
Scientific Director
BioNexus KC
Email: randy@bionexuskc.org
Subject: Patton Research Grant

2. Copy Nerissa Lowe (nerissa@bionexuskc.org) on the electronic submission.