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## Announcement of TVAREF Seed Grant Program

The purpose of the Tampa VA Research and Education Foundation, Inc. (TVAREF) is to facilitate and promote research and education activities at the James A. Haley VA Hospital. TVAREF is initiating a seed grant program in 2023 with the primary goal being to provide support to junior investigators whose career will benefit from funds to develop preliminary data to support future VA Merit or DOD funding. Priority for funding will be given to VA junior investigators that are currently involved in research and have submitted a merit review grant or a DOD grant. **TVAREF will offer two \$15,000 grants in 2023.**

**Eligibility** - Applicants must be at least 5/8's time VA employee and/or a US citizen and be eligible for VA Career Development Award or Merit Review Award. Each applicant shall hold a M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent doctoral degree in medical, biological or behavioral science. Co-PIs are not allowed.

**Project Period** - Grants are for a twelve-month period beginning 9/1/2023, but may be eligible for one no cost extension, if requested and approved by the Executive Director. Any unused funds remaining at the end of the grant will be returned to the TVAREF general fund.

**Application** - The application narrative shall be **no more than three pages** in length and must follow the formatting guidelines in the Application Instructions. **Any application longer than 3 pages will not be reviewed.** NIH/VA Biosketch should be submitted as supplemental information. Letters of support (not to exceed 3) are encouraged. Proposals will be ranked in order of scientific quality and probability of success of future funding. Applicants are strongly encouraged to identify a mentor and their role in the project.

**Protocol Approval** - Applications approved for funding by the TVAREF Board of Directors must subsequently be approved by appropriate Research & Development subcommittees [Human IRB, IACUC, Radiation Safety, and/or the Subcommittee for Research Safety]. **Final approval from the Research & Development Committee must be obtained before funding is released. Any variations from the original grant proposal are subject to review and approval or disapproval by the appropriate Committees and the TVAREF Board of Directors prior to implementation.**

**Deadline** - Final **deadline** for application to be received in the TVAREF office, via email, is no later than **close of business, 04/15/2023.** Please submit one copy in pdf format to [dreeder@tampavaref.org](mailto:dreeder@tampavaref.org). Application packets are available online at Tampa VA website: <http://www.tampavaref.org>. Questions related to the Seed Grant Program should be directed to Doug Reeder at 813-780-2623, x103. **Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the grants submitted for funding by 5/18/2023. Awardees will be recognized on VA Research Day.**

**Reporting** – Start-up and an interim progress report meeting with the JAHVH Research Service Awards Committee within six months following the official start date. A final report must be received in the TVAREF office, via email, no later than two months after closing the research activity. Format for the final report will be available on the TVAREF website.