

W. M. Keck Foundation

UC Irvine Corporate and
Foundation Relations

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Approaching the Keck Foundation

The Keck Foundation supports basic research in the physical, engineering, and biological sciences. They fund new technology and methodology that, when applied an unsolved problem, will create the potential for a significant leap forward in scientific discovery or provide a gateway into a completely new area of research.

Inter-disciplinary collaborations and young faculty as PIs or co-PIs are encouraged.

Please do not contact Keck directly. They ask that you work through UCI's liaison, Roxanne Ford (Roxanne.Ford@uci.edu).

Overview: Keck focuses on enabling **pioneering discoveries** that overturn prevailing paradigms or promote new solutions to old problems. They encourage development of new technology, but also want to know what **new science** it will enable. Competitive LOIs will clearly articulate the specific problem you want to explore and how your approach is unique. Keck does not want projects that reflect the “next logical step” in your research, but rather encourages out-of-the-box thinking. **If your project would be competitive at NIH or NSF, it is not going to be of interest to the Keck Foundation.**

Awards

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Up to \$1,000,000 over
3 years; no indirects

Deadlines

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June 2021 awards
Campus deadline for concept papers: June 8
Counseling with Keck: July 1 to August 15
Phase I (LOI) deadline: November 1
Notification of invitation to submit full proposal: January 15
Full Proposal Deadline February 15

December 2021 awards
Campus deadline for concept papers: December 11
Counseling with Keck: January 1 to February 15
Phase I (LOI) deadline: May 1
Notification of invitation to submit full proposal: July 15
Full Proposal Deadline: August 15

Characteristics of Successful Proposals:

- Broad and creative thinking regarding important and emerging areas of research
- Pioneering discoveries that overturn prevailing paradigms or promote new solutions to old problems
- Development of new technology and the new science it will enable.

Not Funded by Keck: Translational or clinical research, vector and drug development, miniaturization of existing technology, microfluidics, alternative energy and biodiversity studies.

Submission Process

- Two opportunities per year to send in one-page white papers for feedback from Keck program staff
- Two requests will be chosen by Office of Research, one in Science/Engineering and one in Biomedical Research
- This is a limited submission overseen by the Office of Research. Submit a **one-page** concept paper via UCI Review (12 point font; 1" margins required):

Overview: Provide an executive summary written for a well-educated lay audience. Include your overall goal, any pilot studies or data that informs this project and the unique aspects and its significance. **Clearly define the new science this project will allow you to do.**

Methodology: With as much detail as possible, describe your goals and **how** you will approach them.

Key Personnel: List the key personnel and briefly describe their expertise and role in this project. The team should include all expertise needed to address your question and likely will include more than one lab.

Budget: State the total cost of this project and amount requested from the Keck Foundation (up to \$1M). If applicable, please explain where the other funding will come from. Breakdown costs into capital, personnel and equipment.

Justification for WMKF support: Explain why support from the Keck Foundation is essential for this project (i.e. this project cannot be supported by NIH, NSF or other typical funding agencies). *Evidence of this non-fundability is important* - a conversation with a program officer, a declined proposal, lack of appropriate RFPs etc. should be referenced.

UC Irvine Awardees

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2018

BioMedical Research
\$1,000,000, Rob Spitale and
John Chaput

2014

Science & Engineering
\$2,000,000, Filippo Capolino
and Eric Potma

2013

Science & Engineering
\$1,000,000, John Hemminger
Medical Research
\$1,000,000, Anthony James

2012

Science & Engineering
\$1,000,000, Derek Dunn-
Rankin

2011

Science & Engineering
\$1,000,000, Kumar
Wickramasinghe

2010

Medical Research
\$1,000,000 Enrico Gratton

2001

Science & Engineering,
\$2,000,000, John Southon and
Ellen Druffel