

**Research Development Fund – Cover Page Template**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED: *September 22, 2017 at 12 noon CDT* to [rdf@tamu.edu](mailto:rdf@tamu.edu)**

(All cover pages will be posted for the campus community to view at <http://rdf.tamu.edu/abstracts>)

**Application Title: Human Biomedical Research Development Initiative**

**Lead contact for RDF Application:**

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**Anticipated Key Participating Units:** Human Clinical Research Facility  
Texas A&M University  
Texas A&M Health Science Center  
Texas A&M Engineering Experimental Station  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research

**Anticipated Request Amount (\$): 1,500,000**

**Executive summary of the intended application to utilize Research Development Funds.**

*Texas A&M University has developed an impressive research portfolio surrounding basic science, agricultural, and engineering research. However, external funding from NIH in the area of human biomedical and clinical research lags well behind aspirant peers. The Human Clinical Research Facility (HCRF) opened in April of 2017 and was developed to serve as a state-of-the art shared facility for TAMUS researchers to conduct human clinical research (see <http://hcrf.tamu.edu>). From discussions with Deans this summer, it was clear that, in order to optimize use of this facility, significantly expand the number of faculty on campus conducting human clinical research, and increase the amount of externally funded human biomedical research on campus, seed grant funding is needed to help researchers translate their basic research findings and/or ideas into human clinical studies validating the efficacy of interventions and new devices. This request will provide \$1,000,000 of seed grant funding to TAMUS faculty so they can conduct proof-of-concept studies in the HCRF generating pilot data critical to competitive external grant submissions. In addition, we seek \$500,000 to support the highly trained clinical research staff who are critical to the functioning of the HCRF in this inaugural start-up year while we are ramping up externally-funded research partnerships and fee-for-service activities. We will work with Deans and their Research Deans at TAMU and the TAMHSC to identify and award seed grants of up to \$100,000 each to expand their faculty members' engagement in multi-College and multidisciplinary research teams to conduct human clinical research. This will in turn build capacity among faculty to conduct human biomedical research, lead to more competitive human biomedical grant submissions to external funding agencies (especially to the NIH), and expand the university's footprint in conducting human biomedical research.*