USC University of Southern California

OFFICE OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Request For Proposals

Instrumentation Award

FUNDING ORGANIZATION	**USC Office of Research and Innovation (OORI)**
APPLICATION DEADLINE	**5 PM Pacific Time on April 17, Annually.** Proposals submitted after this deadline will be rejected without review. When a due date falls on a weekend, federal holiday, or when USC offices are closed due to weather or other circumstances, the application deadline is automatically extended to the next business day.
SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW	**May – June**
PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW	**June**
NOTIFICATION	**June**
EARLIEST AWARD DATE	**July – August**
EARLIEST START DATE	**August**
AWARD PROJECT PERIOD	**Maximum project period is one year**
AWARD (UP TO)	**Shared Instrumentation Award: $250,000** **Dean's Matching Fund: No cap** The number of awards is contingent upon the receipt of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. All awards are subject to the yearly availability of funds, terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations.

BACKGROUND

The Research and Innovation (OORI) Instrumentation Award intends to establish and bolster the University of Southern California's research infrastructure by supporting the purchase of shared instrumentation and further preparing faculty to submit large-scale instrumentation grants to external sponsors.

OPPORTUNITY

Scientific instruments are typically too expensive to be obtained by an individual investigator with a research project grant. This Request for Proposals supports the purchases of a single state-of-the-art commercially available instrument or an integrated instrumentation system to enhance research of university faculty, with the primary goal of expanding USC's current institutional research infrastructure. Every instrument awarded is to be used on a shared basis by multiple faculty, which makes the program cost-efficient and beneficial to multiple USC investigators. This allows the instrument to contribute to building the research infrastructure that benefits a team of researchers that may extend beyond a single USC school. Such an expanded

infrastructure will provide investigators who use the instrument the opportunity to generate data and publish scientific papers, thereby increasing the competitiveness of these investigators when pursing external funding opportunities. Therefore, the return of investment for this program is assumed to be the generation of data and resulting publications that will enable researchers to pursue research funding from federal agencies and other external sponsors. The Instrumentation Award includes two subprograms that are described below. All acquisitionfundswillbeawardedafterthecompletionofacompetitivescientificpeerreviewanda programmatic review.

SHARED INSTRUMENTATION AWARD

The Shared Instrumentation Award aims to expand institutional infrastructure by supporting up to $50,000 in personnel costs (including fringe), other expenses, and an instrumentation acquisition match that will enable generation of a highly competitive proposal to the shared instrumentation grant program of a federal agency. Personnel supported under this award will work specifically on proposal preparation, and not on research activities. These programs include but are not limited to programs such as the National Institutes of Health basic, shared, and high-end instrumentation programs (S10 mechanisms). The Shared Instrumentation Award includes up to a 50-50 match for instrumentation acquisition, with the remaining 50% being funded by a federal agency. While federal instrumentation programs typically do not require a match, applications that lower the requested amount of funds for instrumentation acquisition by virtue of an institutional match frequently have a competitive edge. An initial OORI award will include personnel and other costs required for preparation of an application to a targeted federal agency instrumentation program.

If the agency application is funded, the requested funds for instrumentation acquisition will be provided by OORI at the time a federal agency award letter is received, typically several months after OORI review of the Shared Instrumentation Award proposal. If the federal agency proposal is not funded, applicants with encouraging reviews should apply for another Shared Instrumentation Award.

DEAN'S MATCHING FUND

The Dean's Matching Fund supports the direct and immediate acquisition of instrumentation by awardees. The program includes up to a 50-50 match for instrumentation acquisition, with OORI funding 50% and the remaining 50% being funded by a USC school or potentially a federal funding agency, foundation, or corporate sponsor for which funds are in hand.

TOPICS

Topics, or types of supported instruments, for this Request for Proposals are listed below. Suitable projects within each topic include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- X-ray diffractometers
- Mass spectrometers
- Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers
- DNA and protein sequencers
- Biosensors
- Electron and light microscopes
- Flow cytometers
- High throughput robotic screening systems
- Biomedical imagers

FUNDING TARGETS

Financial support for instrument acquisition as described in this Request for Proposals may be obtained from any external sponsor; however, proposals that target federal funding agencies are of greatest interest. Proposals submitted to the Shared Instrumentation Award are required to submit an application for instrumentation funding to a Funding Target sponsored by an external sponsor. Federal Funding Targets of greatest interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- National Institutes of Health (NIH) S10 Instrumentation Programs (https://orip.nih.gov/construction-and-instruments/s10-instrumentation-programs). Annual Deadline: June.

- National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/major-research-instrumentation-program-mri). Annual Deadlines: January – February, October – November.

- Department of Defense (DoD) Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) https://researchdevelopment.vpr.virginia.edu/grant-funding-opportunities/defense-university-research-instrumentation-program-durip). Annual Deadline: May.

Proposals submitted to the Dean's Matching Fund are required to target future funding opportunities from federal agencies and other external sponsors. The assumption is that the instrument for which funding is requested will be utilized to generate preliminary data and publications that will be used by the team and other USC researchers in future grant submissions. Federal Funding Targets may be broad, e.g., the NIH R01 program and NSF Standard Grant. Publications and preliminary data will enhance the competitiveness of these future federal agency grant submissions.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

It is expected that instrumentation funded under this program will yield a return on investment of at least 10 times the funding received for an application submitted to this Request for Proposals. For both programs, this will be determined by considering the magnitude of future funding awarded by federal agencies or other external sponsors that was enabled by inclusion of preliminary data and publications generated through use of the instrument. This highlights the importance of awardees tracking all publications and research activities supported wholly or in part by instrumentation acquired under this program.

For applicants to the Shared Instrumentation Award who are applying to external funding opportunities for which cost share is *not* requested, or *not* allowed, such as the NSF-MRI, the 10x Return on Investment will be calculated based on the $50,000 research administrator salary support requested. For example, a future limited submission application to the Research Initiatives and Infrastructure (RII) office seeking to submit a proposal to the NSF MRI requesting funds for a $500,000 instrument would already meet the 10-fold ROI requirement. Should the NSF MRI proposal be less than $500,000, applicants would also need to identify future Funding Targets, such as multiple NIH R01s, that will generate additional cumulative awards to meet the 10-fold requirement (this includes total costs summed over all award years).

In order to demonstrate a return on investment:

- The future proposal to be submitted to a Funding Target must have as PI, Co-Investigator, or major user the PI of the project funded under this Request for Proposals;

- If the PI of the project funded under this Request for Proposals is not the PI of the future proposal, then the PI of that proposal must be included as a Co-Investigator or major user on the project funded under this Request for Proposals;

- The future proposal submitted to a Funding Target must have a USC PI, and USC must be the recipient institution; and

- There is scientific commonality between the project funded under this Request for Proposals and the future proposal.

RESOURCES FOR SUBMITTING GRANT PROPOSALS

Applicants selected for funding are required to contact Research Strategy & Development (RSD), a Research & Innovation suboffice dedicated to supporting faculty in the preparation of competitive applications to federal funding agencies. RSD has considerable experience in generating and submitting proposals to federal agencies. RSD can provide support services to applicants, including science writing, budget preparation, and supporting documentation collection. Specific support provided is contingent on RSD workload and prior commitments. Applicants should contact RSD by sending an email to robyngil@usc.edu.

RESOURCES FOR PROMOTING INNOVATION

Applicants selected for funding are required to contact USC Stevens Center for Innovation (USC Stevens). USC Stevens is the university's technology licensing office, responsible for the translation of USC research into products for public benefit through licenses, collaborations, and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation. USC Stevens staff can provide critical guidance related to the invention disclosure and technology licensing processes, as well as an overview of USC's policies related to intellectual property, researcher IP rights, and responsibilities, amongst other topics. Specific support provided may include organized events through Research and Innovation's Center for Excellence in Research, and is contingent on USC Stevens workload and prior commitments. Applicants should contact USC Stevens by sending an email to stvinfo@usc.edu.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must carefully follow instructions. Information uploaded beyond what is requested will not be included in the proposal package provided to reviewers.

a) **Award Program:** Specify the program to which you are applying (Shared Instrumentation Award or Dean's Matching Fund).

b) **Brief Description** (not to exceed 60 words): A succinct description of the proposed work.

c) **Abstract** (not to exceed 20 lines of text): Provide a stand-alone succinct description of the equipment being requested as well as the benefit it will provide university researchers.

d) **Instrumentation Plan** (not to exceed 5 pages): Page limits are inclusive of figures and tables and include 1" margins of single-spaced text in 11-point standard font (Arial, Times New roman, etc). The following headers should be included:

   a. *Overview of Requested Instrument:* Name the requested instrument. Compare the performance of the requested model with other similar instruments available on the market.

   b. *Justification of Need:* Justify the need for specific features and special accessories of the requested instrument. Describe the current state of related core laboratories at USC, as well as at other nearby institutions. Provide information on the current condition of USC's equipment (if any), and the degree to which USC's equipment is being used at or near capacity. Explain how faculty are currently conducting experiments in the absence of the proposed equipment. Explain the need for equipment/infrastructure upgrades/ refurbishment/repair.

   c. *Technical Expertise & Research Projects:* Identify a USC PI (or Co-PIs) and any USC Co-Is. Proposals should include a detailed description of the proposal team of users, including a discussion of each team member's past and current research that is relevant to this effort. Discuss why the proposal team would be successful in pursuing this opportunity, and how the research expertise of the PI/Co-PIs and any Co-Is will be integrated through the proposed project. Describe any ongoing research projects that could be supported by this effort.

   d. *Funding Target:* <u>Shared Instrumentation Award:</u> Describe the specific federal funding instrumentation opportunity (including URL) to which you commit to apply. <u>Dean's Matching Fund</u>: Describe what kind of data are expected to be generated by shared use of the instrumentation and indicate what federal funding programs to which future applications will be submitted.

e) **Return on Investment** <u>Shared Instrumentation Award</u>: In addition to identifying a federal instrumentation program to which an application will be submitted, applicants also need to identify future Funding Targets targeting at least 10x the funds requested under this RFP (see Return of Investments above). <u>Dean's Matching Fund</u>: Submission of an application to a federal instrumentation program is <u>not</u> required. Identify future Funding Targets of at least 10x the funds requested under this RFP, as described for the Shared Instrumentation Funding Award.

f) **List of Users**: Provide the name, title, email address, and funding history of at least three users who

haveactivefundingfromasourcesuchasafederalagency,privatefoundation,oracademic institution, and who would utilize the proposed instrument.

g) ***Grant Submission Commitment:*** The proposal must include a statement in which the applicant commits to submit a proposal to the opportunity or opportunities identified as the Funding Target(s). FortheSharedInstrumentationAward,thisalsoincludesacommitmenttoapplytoafederal instrumentation grant program.

h) ***Innovation Ecosystem Commitment:*** OORI is committed to establishing a thriving innovation ecosystem at USC that will build collaborations between USC researchers and venture capital firms, accelerators, incubators, small and large businesses, and foundations. OORI is working closely with Research Initiatives in USC University Advancement to develop these partnerships. The proposal must include a statement in which the applicant commits to contacting Research Initiatives at hpourman@usc.edu to discuss the potential for obtaining funding for research that may arise from the use of the instrument from venture capital firms, accelerators, incubators, small and large businesses, and foundations that are part of USC's developing innovation ecosystem. This includes development by the applicant and team members of specialized software or other technologies they develop for use with the instrument.

i) ***Support and Maintenance Commitment****:* Commitment for ongoing support and maintenance from a university school, center or department or other sources, such as recharge costs (with demonstration calculation) and/or from splitting costs with all participating PIs, is required.

j) ***Plan for Tracking of Instrumentation Usage and Publications:*** The proposal will include a plan to efficiently and accurately track instrumentation usage and all resulting publications.

k) ***Budget and Budget Justification*** (not to exceed 2 pages): A quote estimate of the main requested instrument is required from the vendor. Shared Instrumentation Award: Utilize standard budget categories - key personnel (including percentage effort and fringe) for postdocs/GRAs/administrative staff, other expenses, and equipment. Personnel supported under this award will work on proposal preparation, and not on research activities. Dean's Matching Fund: Specify expected date of purchase equipment. Only equipment costs are permitted. The award does not reimburse for lab or core facility renovation or ongoing operating costs, such as maintenance, service agreements and staffing.

l) ***Current Funding:*** List all sources of internal and external support awarded during the past five years, current or pending, for the PI/Co-PIs and Co-Is. For each source, specify who on this proposal was involved, their role on the project, title of the award, period, award amount, and sponsor (including subagency). Shared Instrumentation Award: In a separate section, clearly demarcate for the PI/Co-PIs and Co-Is what funding was obtained from the agency that sponsors the instrumentation Funding Target. For example, if you identify a Funding Target that is sponsored by NIH, clearly indicate the NIH funding history for all instrumentation users. Dean's Matching Fund: In a separate section, clearly demarcate for the PI/Co-PIs and Co-Is in a separate section what funding has been obtained from the subagency that sponsors the Funding Targets. For example, if you identify Funding Targets sponsored by one NSF Directorate, clearly indicate funding history for that specific Directorate; if you identify Funding Targets sponsored by one NIH institute, clearly indicate funding history for that institute.

m) ***Letter(s) of Support***: Provide a letter(s) of support from the department research dean/chair/program director, and (as applicable) documentation from a federal agency or other outside organization that documents financial support for instrument acquisition.

n) ***Federal Agency Review Documents*** (Subsequent Shared Instrumentation Award submissions only): Provide a copy of an NIH summary statement or NSF review document from the last S10 or MRI submission (as applicable).

o) ***Scientific References*** (not to exceed 1 page): This includes citations listed in the narrative.

p) ***Curriculum Vitae*** (not to exceed 5 pages per PI/Co-PI/Co-I): Applicants may use any standardized CV format (e.g., NIH Biographical Sketch, NSF Biographical Sketch, etc.).

ELIGIBILITY

All tenured, tenure track, and Research, Teaching, Practice, and Clinical (RTPC) faculty (with the exception of lecturers, adjunct, and part-time faculty) may serve as Principal Investigators on Sponsored Research Projects at USC. Retired faculty may be called back and asked to serve as Principal Investigators as described in Chapter 10 of the Faculty Handbook. Voluntary faculty may not serve as Principal Investigators. Eligibility requirements of our internal research programs are the same as those for being a PI on an external sponsored research project. Applications should also specifically describe the involvement of other faculty or key personnel who have agreed to participate in the project.

The following employee types may serve as Principal Investigators if a specific waiver is granted upon recommendation by the appropriate department chair(s), appropriate dean(s), and the Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation:

- Part-time faculty
- Certain staff positions, if eligible, including Research Scientists, Senior Research Associates, and Research Associates
- Postdoctoral Research Associates and Postdoctoral Teaching Associates

Postdoctoral Research Associates and Postdoctoral Teaching Associates, as defined by USC's Postdoctoral Scholars Policy, can also serve as co-principal investigators on sponsored projects without a waiver. To review the Postdoctoral Scholars Policy, please visit https://policy.usc.edu/postdoctoral-scholars/.

GRANT CONDITIONS

OORI's awards and grant programs are administered by the Research Initiatives and Infrastructure (RII) office.

- If a faculty has an industry relationship, an approved management plan must be in place prior to receipt of award (https://disclose.usc.edu).Teamsthatwillformastartupshouldanticipate submitting a conflict of interest disclosure. Questions regarding conflict of interest and disclosures can be directed to Ben Bell in the Office of Compliance (benjamab@usc.edu).

- At the time of being notified by RII that an award will be made and as a condition of funding, awardees will provide to RII the name, title, and email address of a USC senior business official who will establish an internal funding account in which RII funds for the award will be transferred.

- Within one month of being notified by RII that an award will be made and as a condition of funding, awardees will provide RII with an account number and enable view access for the account, such that RII staff will be able to view the account balance. If this information is not provided to RII within this timeframe, RII may elect to rescind the award and use the funds to make an award to another applicant.

- Awardees commit to submitting in the future an application or applications to a funding opportunity (Funding Targets) sponsored by a federal agency. Applicants to the Shared Instrumentation award will identify a federal instrumentation program as a Funding Target, in addition to other future Funding Targets. Failure to pursue submissions may lead to a loss of eligibility for the PI to submit to future OORI funding instrumentation opportunities.

- Awardees commit to contacting Research Strategy & Development (RSD) to explore obtaining support services for external agency grant submissions, including science writing, budget preparation, and supporting documentation collection. Awardees contact RSD by sending an email to robyngil@usc.edu.

- Awardees commit to contacting USC Stevens Center for Innovation to obtain guidance related to the invention disclosure and technology licensing processes, as well as an overview of USC's policies related to intellectual property, researcher IP rights and responsibilities, amongst other topics. Awardees contact USC Stevens by sending an email to stvinfo@usc.edu.

- Awardees commit to attend an in-person ceremony with Research & Innovation leadership.

- Awards include fringe benefits but are not assessed Facilities & Administration Costs (formerly known as Indirect Costs).

- For the Shared Instrumentation Award, failure to spend at least half of the awarded funds within six months of the project start date may result in the suspension of the remaining funds.

- This award will not provide financial support beyond the duration of the award and does not carry the opportunity for renewal.

- Funds not spent by the end of the project period will be returned to OORI.

- Awardees have discretion in the budgeting and re-budgeting of funds to meet their research needs within the guidelines of the fund and the terms of the proposal. However, funds may not be transferred to another project or other researchers or institutions.

- Allowable budget expenses:
  o Equipment
  o Postdocs/graduate/undergraduate student RAs/administrative personnel salary and fringe, excluding funding student tuition and other student-related fees (Shared Instrumentation Award only)
  o Other expenses (Shared Instrumentation Award only)

- Non-allowable budget expenses:
  o Faculty salary and fringe
  o Travel
  o Materials and Supplies
  o Consultants
  o Subcontracts
  o The award does not reimburse for lab or core facility renovation or ongoing operating costs, such as maintenance, service agreements and staffing.

- Instruments purchased with funding from the Instrumentation Award Program are expected to be placed at a USC Core Facility. If placement of the instrument is not in a USC Core Facility, a justification must be included in the Instrumentation Plan detailing where it will be placed, how it will be maintained as well as how it will be made accessible and shared with USC researchers.

- Regardless of placement of the instrument, all funded projects are required to utilize Priority Software FBS software. Priority Software FBS facilitates compliance to federal regulations and supports reservation, tracking, billing and payment for services and shared instrumentation. Core facilities or individual faculty awardees that do not charge for services (i.e., are supported by grants) are required to use FBS but are not required to obtain a recharge center account. For more information on FBS, go to https://rii.usc.edu/shared-resources/fbs/ or send an email to usccores@usc.edu.

- The proposal must be submitted by a PI in whose laboratory/facility the instrument will be installed. The PI can be a USC Core Facility director or appointee.

- The PI or USC Core Facility Director, along with an associated center, department or applicable school, are required to commit to the ongoing support and maintenance of the instrument as a condition of the award. This will be specified in a Core Lab Agreement, which is a condition of award.

- The PI or USC Core Facility Director commit to creating a website - or maintaining updated an existing website – that provides information on reservation, training and applicable costs associated with use of the instrument.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by a standing committee of researchers with expertise in instrumentation and federal instrumentation programs. The committee will be convened yearly to review applications submitted to this program. Review criteria will be based on the following:

1. *Overview of Requested Instrument:* The specific instrument is succinctly described and defined, including any specific features or special accessories.

2. *Justification of Need:* The need for the instrument is clearly and adequately justified as essential and appropriate.

3. *Technical Expertise:* The proposal includes a team of researchers who will utilize the instrument. The PI and team have technical expertise to utilize the instrument. The team is engaged in research that will make effective and appropriate use of the requested instrument. The PI and team have a history of funding from the agency or agencies identified as Funding Targets.

4. *Funding Targets/Research Projects:* The application identifies appropriate Funding Targets. The proposed instrumentation will support ongoing and future federal funding research projects and will generate data Funding Targets.

5. *Potential of Future Funding:* A Funding Target expecting to yield a return on investment of at least 10x the funding requested has been specified, and this is an appropriate and realistic Funding Target based on the PI/Co-PI/Co-I's expertise and funding history with the specific subagency sponsoring the Funding Target.

6. *Budget:* Cost-effectiveness and availability of any support/match funding from a USC school or program. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed activities.

PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

We will incorporate aspects of existing policies and procedures regarding funding decisions that are utilized by major federal funding agencies like NSF and NIH, i.e., proposals will be subject to scientific peer review and programmatic review. Programmatic review assures maximum efficiency for funding awards and strategic alignment with this program's and the university's strategic research priorities. While financial support may be obtained from any external sponsor, proposals that target federal funding agencies are of greatest interest.

Ultimate funding decisions will be made based on both scientific peer and programmatic review.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

OORI and RII strongly support a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Proposals should incorporate meaningful DEI practices across the project team and proposed activities. This will be a consideration during the programmatic review.

REPORTING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

Awardees will be required to submit a one-page progress report, which will be due six months into the project period and at the point of project period completion. This report must detail scientific, financial, and research performance over the preceding months. Any and all publications arising from work supported wholly or in part by instrumentation acquitted under this program must acknowledge the *USC Research and Innovation Instrumentation Award.*

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submit your proposal application utilizing the RII application submission and reporting portal. Go to https://rii.usc.edu/funding/oor-portal/ to log in or create an account using your USC email address.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

We encourage inquiries to RII concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants about allowable expenses and all other issues. For additional information or inquiries, please review the FAQ below and/or send an email to rii@usc.edu with "Instrumentation Award" in the subject line.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Award Program
- ☐ Brief Description
- ☐ Abstract
- ☐ Instrumentation Plan
  - o Overview of Requested Instrument
  - o Justification of Need
  - o Technical Expertise and Research Project
  - o Funding Target
- ☐ Return on Investment
- ☐ Grant Submission Commitment
- ☐ Innovation Ecosystem Commitment
- ☐ Support and Maintenance Commitment
- ☐ Plan for Tracking Instrumentation Usage and Publications
- ☐ Budget and Budget Justification
- ☐ Current Funding
- ☐ Letter(s) of Support
- ☐ Federal Agency Review Documents (Subsequent Shared Instrumentation Award only)
- ☐ Scientific References
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: What are the major differences between the Shared Instrumentation Award and the Dean's Matching Fund?
A1: The Shared Instrument Award program is meant to be used when an applicant has identified funding for an instrument, but no funds have been committed by a federal agency, corporation, USC school, or other source. The funds are used to support staff who will help prepare a grant submission to a federal agency instrumentation program, e.g., NIH S10, NSF MRI. Matching funds also are provided to reduce the budget on the grant submission, thereby making the proposal more competitive. Personnel costs (up to $50,000, including fringe) are awarded after scientific peer and programmatic reviews; acquisition matching funds are awarded later and contingent on successful award of a federal instrumentation grant. The Dean's Matching Fund is suitable when an applicant has partial funds in hand from a USC school, federal funding agency, foundation, or corporate sponsor to support acquisition of an instrument. All funds are awarded after scientific peer and programmatic reviews.

Q2: I need to buy equipment now. Can I get funds to do that?
A2: If you have half of the funds from a USC school, federal funding agency, foundation, or corporate sponsor, you can apply to the Dean's Matching Fund. Email rii@usc.edu to see if we can do an expedited review. We anticipate a scientific reason for an expedited review and that this would be a very rare circumstance. The opportunity to receive a price break, in and of itself, would not constitute sufficient reason to provide an expedited review.

Q3: How much funding can I request to acquire an instrument?
A3: You should request an amount you think is scientifically appropriate and justified. The Shared Instrumentation Award is capped at $250,000. For both programs specified in this announcement, instrument acquisition is supported with a 50:50 match (half of the cost of the instrument needs to be provided by a federal agency, foundation, or corporate sponsor).The requested budget – including the amount requested for the acquisition – is subject to both scientific peer and programmatic review, and any OORI award made could be for a lesser amount than requested.

Q4: If my proposal is selected for funding, will I automatically receive my requested amount?
Q4: Not necessarily. The budget is subject to scientific peer and programmatic review, and a recommended award may be for less than what was requested.

Q5: I am dissatisfied with my review. Can I rebut the review and get a new one?
Q5: RII goes to considerable effort to ensure that the scientific peer review is fair and impartial. Constituting review committees and organizing reviews takes considerable time and effort. Thus, RII does not have the resources or a mechanism to re-review proposals. Thus, the results of the scientific peer review are final.

Q6: Why can I use funds to support personnel on the Shared Instrumentation Award, but not the Dean's Matching Fund?
A6: The Shared Instrumentation Award is meant to provide support for generating a competitive proposal submitted to a federal funding agency. Personnel can work to obtain quotes, identify researchers who could use the instrument, etc. The Dean's Matching Fund provides funds for direct acquisition of an instrument, and there are no associated personnel costs.

Q7: How is this different from the previous instrumentation programs?
A7: The new Shared Instrument Award program provides additional funding (up to $50,000, including fringe) for personnel salary to help in the preparation of a competitive grant application. The new program places a greater emphasis on identifying funding targets and realizing a return on investment. The Shared Instrumentation Award replaces the Core/Shared Instrumentation program (Type A & Type B). The Type A program did not require a federal grant submission, which is a requirement of the new program. Like the previous Type B program, a federal grant submission is required and funding for an equipment purchase is released contingent upon an instrumentation application being funded by a federal agency. The current

Dean's Matching Fund is nearly identical to the previous program by the same name. It places a greater emphasis on identifying funding targets and realizing a return on investment.

Q8: Why do I need to identify a team of researchers who use the instrument?
A8: This requirement is similar to that of federal agency instrumentation programs. The tremendous benefit is that it identifies a cadre of researchers whose research will directly benefit from the use of the instrument. This also increases the infrastructure of one or more schools to support cutting-edge research. A downstream benefit is that larger grant submissions will be more competitive, in the sense that additional core facilities and resources are now available to make these larger proposals more competitive. Submission of an application to a federal agency instrumentation program will require inclusion of research teams as users of the instrument. Our requirement helps to prepare awardees for submitting a competitive application to a federal agency instrument program.

Q9: Why does my team need to have funding from a federal agency?
A9: Submission of an application to a federal agency instrumentation program will require inclusion of research projects they fund as users of the instrument. Our requirement helps to prepare awardees for submitting a competitive application to a federal agency instrument program.

Q10: Can I work with faculty across multiple USC schools?
Q10: Absolutely. We strongly encourage applicants to work with colleagues across multiple USC schools who would use the instrument.

Q11: Why do I need to document a return on investment?
A11: Much like federal funding agencies, OORI has a budget that needs to be re-authorized yearly. The university has many competing interests, and OORI needs to make a compelling case every year to receive funding. The likelihood of receiving funds – and increasing OORI funding – is contingent upon demonstration that the activities we support offer a significant return on investment and generate creative and research products that have a significant societal impact. The greater the return on investment that your project offers, the more you help us in advocating for our research funding allocation.

Q12: If I am successful and get a Shared Instrumentation Award in April, I may not have enough time to apply for the DOD DURIP Program May deadline and/or the NIH S10 program June deadline.
A12: The Instrumentation Award program deadlines are not matched to federal funding program deadlines in a given calendar year. You certainly can apply to this program in advance of federal funding deadlines, for submission to the next year's deadlines. For example, funding received in April of a given year can be used to generate an application to the DURIP program next May, NIH S10 program next June, and the NSF MRI program next January - February.