The W.M. Keck Foundation Research Program  
Last Revised February 2018

The Keck Foundation supports groundbreaking science, engineering and medical research. According to the Foundation website (http://www.wmkeck.us/grant-programs/grant-programs), grants have ranged from $500,000 to $5 million and are typically $2 million or less. Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for research projects that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies
- Are innovative, distinctive and interdisciplinary
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project’s success

Moreover, ongoing conversations with Keck Program officers have made clear that Keck is highly unlikely to fund grant proposals that:

- Have not already been rejected by other funding sources, particularly the federal institutes
- Are focused upon specific diseases, e.g. Diabetes, etc.
- Are clinical or translational in nature
- Concern public policy issues

Keck program officers have also noted the proposals with the greatest chance for Keck funding will:

- Constitute opportunities for breakthrough scientific discoveries, particularly when achieved through multi-disciplinary approaches.
- Include notes from reviewers who previously rejected the proposal (paradoxically, the more times rejected, the better, assuming the proposal meets all other Keck guidelines).

UVM is seeking interested investigators for both of Keck’s research areas: Medical Research and Science and Engineering Research. The next Keck Foundation grant round is for the “June” cycle which specifies that the Counseling appointments must occur between July 1 and August 15 with the Phase I deadline being November 1. The Keck Foundation will allow one counseling appointment for UVM to discuss up to 8 Concept Papers with them (up to 4 for Medical Research and up to 4 for Science and Engineering Research).

Faculty interested in the vetting process should send a one-page Concept Paper to Richard Galbraith, Vice President of Research by Monday, April 30, 2018. Please specify whether your project falls under the area of Medical Research or the area of Science and Engineering Research.

Guidelines for Concept Papers can be found at: http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/faq/214-grantprograms/shared/1482-concept-papers

An overview of the entire Keck application process can be viewed here: http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research/application-process-14030

Abstracts of previously funded Keck proposals can be found at: http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research/medical-research-grant-abstracts