

**College of Medicine Enhancement of Team Science (COMETS)
(Letter of Intent)**

Program Overview:

Rationale and Requirements: The College of Medicine has established a new funding program targeted to active mid-career and senior investigators with strong funding and publication histories, a record of valuable service to MUSC, and difficulty obtaining R01 (or equivalent) support in the past 18-24 months. The funding program will support newly established research teams of two faculty members with different but complementary expertise to conduct basic, translational, or clinical research.

Priority will be given to research conducted in areas consistent with MUSC Health Clinical Priority areas: Digestive Disease, Heart & Vascular, Musculoskeletal, Neurosciences, Oncology, Pediatric Subspecialties, Primary Care, and Transplant.

Team members may have faculty appointments (Associate or Full Professor) in the same or different departments. The long-term goal is for both team members to successfully compete for R01 support.

Funds Available: \$150,000/year **Duration:** Two years

Progress Reports and Oversight: Progress reports at 6-month intervals will report publication preparation and submissions and grant preparation and submissions. It is expected that two NIH R01 or equivalent proposals will be submitted (one from each PI) by the end of the funding period.

Nomination: Research teams can self-nominate or be nominated by their department chair(s).

Letters of Intent:

Nominations/Letters of Intent due by TBD - submit to [Mary McConnell](#) and include:

- The team members
- The general area of research that the two grants will be centered around
- The significance and innovation of the two grant proposals that will result from the COMETS grant
- Existing preliminary data and new data that will be developed from the COMETS grant to support new R01 applications and joint team publications
- A statement that the chair(s) supports the COMETS application and is/are copied on the letter
- Two-page limit

(Selection of teams to submit full applications by invitation only)

Note: Timeline and due dates subject to change