



# KAIMRC Medical Biotechnology Park Guidelines for Proof-of-Concept Funding



## 1. Proof of Concept Funding Overview

Proof-of-Concept funding is designed to facilitate the translation of R&D projects outputs into commercial products by providing 1) monetary support and 2) commercialization resources, guidance, and services. The purpose of the funding is to bridge an existing funding “gap” that result from research and private sector supported translation of those R&D findings into commercial products. “Gap” funding is designed to facilitate the demonstration of a technology’s proof-of-concept, working prototype, or scale-up development to make that technology more attractive for private sector funding and partnering.

This program supports the economic development goal of the country by facilitating transformation of discoveries and technologies into useful products and services that benefit society. The medical Biotechnology Park helps launch the technologies into commercial products pipeline, which is aimed at protecting, supporting, and launching ideas into global solutions.

## 2. Proof of Concept Funds Program Outlines

Submitted proposals must propose a plan for further development of technologies or inventions close to commercialization and/or licensing. Each project should contain defined steps or tangible set of milestones that would overcome a specific, identifiable hurdle to commercialization. A successful project will enable a technology or invention, within 1-2 years of the program completion, to become more attractive for either (1) licensing to an existing company or (2) enabling the formation of a start-up company that will further develop and commercialize the technology. Projects that relate to a technology or invention that could address a significant market need and are able to achieve proof of concept in less than 12 months are especially encouraged. Projects solicited under this program may include:

- Building of a prototype or second iteration prototype to prepare for commercialization
- Commercial feasibility tests
- Work to demonstrate mitigation of risk for potential licensees
- Work to address a specific gap identified by industry that impairs the ability to license or attract capital

### 2.1. Scope of Program

Projects will be awarded through the Biotech Park when approved by **KAIMRC Funding Committee**. The money will be divided over a 12-24 month period. The medical Biotechnology Park Proof-of-Concept funding is contingent on the availability of funds.

In addition to the monetary support, participants will be offered commercialization support in the form of the additional resources and services. Additional support could include support from the Office of Technology Management (ITTMO) with intellectual property landscape.



### 3. Eligibility

#### 3.1 Program Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted from all fields of Biomedical Research in which the proposed project fulfills the goals and funding priorities of the program outlined above. Additionally, proposals must meet both the application and project eligibility as outlined below. To be considered eligible for funding, both the investigator and proposed project must meet the following criteria:

##### 3.1.1 Principle Investigator Eligibility

- The PI must have an invention disclosure filed with ITTMO upon which the proposed project will be based, prior to or concurrent with applying. Pre-proposal applications will not move forward if a disclosure is not on file with ITTMO. The invention disclosure can be made at the time of the letter of intent.
- The principal investigator must be affiliated with Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs (MNG-HA)/King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC)/King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS).
- Collaborative projects with external investigators are highly encouraged as long as the principal investigator is affiliated with MNG-HA or its affiliates (KAIMRC and KSAU-HS).

##### 3.1.2 Project Eligibility

- The technology which provides the basis for the proposal must not be exclusively licensed, or encumbered by any other prior obligations that would preclude the Medical Biotechnology Park from moving forward with commercialization (i.e. sponsored research agreement, ongoing collaboration with an industrial partner, or consulting agreement). If the invention is under exclusive license to another party and this other party is a collaborative entity with MNG-HA affiliates (KAIMRC or KSAU-HS) then the project will be eligible. Please note that technologies that have been optioned or non-exclusively licensed **may be** eligible for the program, depending on the circumstances.
- The IP surrounding the invention disclosure/patent should be owned (or co-owned) by MNG-HA or its affiliates (KAIMRC or KSAU-HS).
- The project must be focused on commercial product development or testing. Proof of Concept funding cannot be used for basic exploratory studies or as general funding for the PI's lab. Project proposals should address how achieving identified project milestones will move the invention towards commercialization.
- Project milestones and deliverables must be achievable within 12-18 months of the start of funding and within the requested budget.

#### 3.2 Limitations and Exclusions

The following are NOT eligible for funding under this program:



- a. Proposals to fund pharmaceutical/drug clinical trials. Pre-clinical animal testing and medical device testing, if it can be completed in 12-24 months and is feasible within program limits and other guidelines, may be proposed.
- b. Proposals to fund basic research or theoretical development, or to generate models, new data, or assess the feasibility of a research project.
- c. Projects for which the proposed activities require more than 24 months to complete.
- d. Renewals for projects funded in previous cycles.

#### **4. Submission of Proposals:**

The submission and review of proposals is as follows:

**4.1.** The investigators/inventors who wish to be considered for the Proof of Concept Fund will need to submit their proposals through the medical biotechnology park web site. The submitted proposals will be reviewed by the Medical Biotechnology Park.

#### **5. Review of Proposals:**

**5.1.** After a review of the proposals, the PIs/Inventors of short listed proposals might be invited to submit additional information or documents as needed (copies of patent applications, licensing agreements if any, etc.)

**5.2.** Once proposals are fully reviewed by the Medical Biotechnology Park, the eligible proposals will be recommended to KAIMRC Funding Committee for funding and final approval.

#### **6. Approval and Implementation:**

**6.1.** The PIs/Inventors of the projects who have received final approval will receive a notification letter from KAIMRC Medical Biotechnology Park with the funding decision.

**6.2.** The PIs/Inventors with approved projects will execute an agreement stating the goals/objectives, milestones, timeline and funding approved for the project.

**6.3.** The project implementation will be subject to regular assessment and regular reporting on implementation progress.

Please contact the Medical Biotechnology Park Team for any queries of proposal/business plan submission through email: [KAIMRC-KMBP@NGHA.MED.SA](mailto:KAIMRC-KMBP@NGHA.MED.SA)