

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT | Due Dec 29, 2021

\$1M in funding and support to bring biomedical innovations to market

The [Midwest Biomedical Accelerator Consortium \(MBArc\)](#), an [NIH Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub \(REACH\)](#), a partnership led by the NIH and the University of Missouri, is aimed at accelerating the translation of discoveries originating from academic research into products that improve health. MBArc bridges the gap between academic research and industry by providing researchers with proof-of-concept funding and training to perform experiments and generate data that can attract follow-on funding from federal sources, investors and strategic partners to continue commercialization of the technology. [Please join us at either of these Information Sessions to learn more:](#)

ZOOM INFORMATION SESSION 1 [\[RSVP\]](#)
Wednesday, November 17, 3:00-3:45 pm

ZOOM INFORMATION SESSION 2 [\[RSVP\]](#)
Monday, November 29, 10:00-10:45 am

AWARD DETAILS

The Hub deploys up to \$1 million/year in proof-of-concept milestone-driven/tranche funding and support for translational research projects. Select projects are provided with resources and the opportunity to work with experts to pressure-test the commercial viability of their ideas using universal business criteria as well as the unique requirements of biomedical product commercialization.

FUNDING +

-  Annual Boot Camp
-  Expert Feedback
(Academic, Industry, Investor)
-  Specialized Workshops
-  Post-award Project Management
-  Regulatory Consulting Support
-  Reimbursement Consulting Support
-  Marketing Consulting Support
-  Introductions to Industry Partners & Investors

HOW TO APPLY – ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- All faculty are eligible to serve as Principal Investigator (PI). Co-Investigator(s) and/or Collaborator(s), if required, must be from institutions within the MBArc network. If invited, the PI or a member of their team should be willing to attend the virtual MU Coulter/MBArc Boot Camp.
- Eligible projects address an unmet medical need and have a reasonable chance of achieving a university exit within one-two years.
- The technology must be an idea or invention based on the applicant's institution's intellectual property. *Technologies that are already licensed or optioned to a company are not eligible.*

MBArc supports each project with a maximum of \$100,000 (in tranches), and the applicant is required to show **at least an equal (1:1) cash match commitment** from non-federal sources (e.g., recipient institutions, foundations, for-profit investors, other state resources). **All applicants must:**

- Step 1: **Obtain a letter of support** from their institution or other non-federal sources describing the latter's willingness to commit the cash/in-kind match of the direct costs of funding, if awarded.
- Step 2: **Complete (i) [questionnaire](#) and (ii) email letter of support to request a meeting** with MBArc Lead Program Manager, **Jaya Ghosh** (email: ghoshj@missouri.edu), and Assistant Program Manager, **Kristin Hatton** (email: hattonk@missouri.edu). More details about application requirements can be found [here](#). If you have questions about eligibility, or need additional information, contact the Program Office for assistance.

Email: ghoshj@missouri.edu

Phone: (573) 882-0522

FUNDING TIMELINE



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Midwest Biomedical Accelerator Consortium (MBArc)	
Is my institution eligible for MBArc funding?	The following 16 institutions included in the MBArc network are eligible: University of Missouri, The University of Kansas, University of Missouri – St. Louis, University of Missouri – Kansas City, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Kansas State University, Wichita State University, Fort Hays University, Washburn University, Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University, The University of Oklahoma, Langston University, University of North Dakota, University of South Dakota and University of Nebraska Medical Center.
Who can be a Principal Investigator on an MBArc application?	All faculty are eligible. Non-faculty applicants must identify a faculty member who is willing to sponsor their application.
What types of product/technology are eligible for MBArc funding?	Therapeutic, diagnostic, device, tool and software.
What is the maximum funding amount available?	\$200,000 for one yr. (In tranches, including 1:1 match).
Who should I contact regarding letter of support for matching funds commitment?	Contact your Office of Research or equivalent. If you have trouble finding the right office/person, contact the MBArc Program Office for assistance.
Does an independent group select projects for funding?	Yes, the MBArc External Review Board (ERB) , with feedback from NIH REACH .
What is milestone-driven/tranche funding?	Funded projects are actively managed by the MBArc Program Office under a market-focused project management oversight and decision-making plan. The Program Office meets with funded investigators on a monthly basis to track project progress. Investigators also meet with the ERB on a regular basis to report progress toward milestones. Based on these updates, the ERB makes go/no-go/tranche funding decisions on all funded projects. Non-progressing projects may be terminated.
Is follow-on ecosystem support available for small business formation?	Yes.

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