2020 eWEAR Seed Grant Competition

Purpose: Stanford eWEAR is soliciting seed grant proposals from the Stanford community of postdoctoral researchers and PhD candidates, with the support of their mentors, for exploratory projects in areas aligned with the scope of the eWEAR Initiative that involve a hardware aspect. The scope includes enabling technology or devices that are for sensing, interfaces, or flexible/stretchable electronics, worn or carried on the body or implanted in the body, or for analogous uses in robotics, vehicles, or structures. Proposals related to enabling technologies or for translational research are welcome. The intent of this award is to support new, original research projects that are collaborative among two or more researchers from different principal investigator (PI) groups.

Deadline: October 30, 2020 by 5:00 pm Pacific Time.

Funding: Two seed grants will be awarded. Each seed grant will provide up to $40K in direct cost funding for a one-year period. These funds may be used for salary of researchers and their PI mentors, benefits, and/or laboratory supplies.

Eligibility: Applications may be submitted by two or more researchers working in collaboration, from at least two different faculty mentors’ groups. Postdoctoral researchers must have existing appointments at Stanford, and early-stage postdocs are encouraged to apply. Collaboration across different departments and schools is encouraged. Any postdoc or PhD candidate may not receive more than one eWEAR seed grant award in a given year.

Application Guidelines: The application process opens on September 14, 2020. Submit one application per proposal. It is strongly encouraged for applicants to start their application by October 2nd, providing at least the following information:

• Project Title (draft)

• For each researcher: Name, department, address, phone number, email address, faculty mentor’s name (PI), title and department

• Project description (draft) aimed at a general audience (no more than 200 words)

The online application platforms allow applicants to save incomplete drafts of their proposals to finish and submit later.

Proposals should be submitted to the 2020 Stanford eWEAR Seed Grant opportunity on the following websites:

Proposal teams having applicants that are postdocs or a mix of postdocs and PhD candidates, use seedfunding.stanford.edu. A postdoc should submit the proposal (not a PhD candidate).
Proposal teams having applicants that are two or more PhD candidates (no postdocs), use solo.stanford.edu. The SOLO website complies with Stanford protocols for managing student information.

The application forms on the websites will ask for the following information:

- Project Title
- For each researcher: Name, department, address, phone number, email address, faculty mentor’s name (PI), title and department
- Project description aimed at a general audience (no more than 200 words)
- Project narrative and figures that explain background and aims of the project. The narrative should explicitly describe a best-case outcome on a 12 month timescale (no more than 1000 words)
- References (no more than 500 words)
- A one-page statement on the roles/expertise of each co-applicant and how they combine to further the project goal (no more than 500 words)
- Budget: amount requested and simple breakdown of how funds would be spent. (Seed grant award recipients may be required to provide a detailed budget when the PTA is set up.)
- Biographical info for each postdoctoral researcher or PhD candidate
- Letter of support from the faculty mentor PI of each applicant, confirming the term of the appointment through the award period and guaranteeing availability of adequate facilities and supplementary research expense funds should an award be made.

It is not necessary to generate a PDRF form or to submit the proposal to your institutional representative (RPM in RMB or OSR contract officer) at this time.

Selection Process: Proposal will be reviewed by a panel consisting of Stanford eWEAR affiliated faculty, postdocs, and/or staff and scored based on the potential impact of the idea, rather than the strength of the preliminary data. Preference will be given to proposals that are cross-disciplinary, have the potential to yield insights benefiting the research community, and that articulate the necessity of the investigation for enabling future applications of the research.

The winning applications will be selected by the end of January 2021 and funded effective the beginning of April 2021.

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