Objective: The objective of the Institute for Engineering in Medicine (IEM) seed funding program is to enhance biomedical and health related engineering research at the University of Minnesota while fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between the Academic Health Center (AHC) and the College of Science and Engineering (CSE). Proposals are invited for (1) developing an interdisciplinary collaborative research program (Group Program Grants may request up to $50,000-$60,000), (2) exploring novel research ideas (Exploratory Grants may request $15,000-$25,000), and (3) addressing a “What If” question originated from clinical needs (What If proposals may request up to $5,000). Members of IEM are eligible to apply for any of these funding opportunities. In addition, modest funds will be available to assist investigators to develop working groups.

Program Description: Group Program projects are aimed at supporting a cohort of investigators (from both AHC and CSE) that work collaboratively to tackle significant biomedical and health problems with a multidisciplinary approach including innovative engineering solutions. The aims of the Group Program are to assist faculty group to develop major research programs seeking substantial external funding such as the creation of a national center, or competing for major program applications. Multiple PIs are encouraged, with at least one PI each from AHC and CSE. Exploratory Grant projects are aimed at supporting the exploration of highly innovative ideas, and are expected to generate preliminary data in order to support external funding proposals. Exploratory Grant proposals must include at least one member each from AHC and CSE, collaborating in a field of medically or health-related engineering. What If proposals are usually from an individual faculty member to test the feasibility of a highly clinically relevant question with an engineering solution, which may lead to breakthrough in medicine or healthcare.

All proposals will be peer reviewed. Funding decisions will be made, based upon the review outcome and the programmatic consideration.

Deadline: Applications are due by March 10, 2015 at 9:00 am.

Questions and application submissions regarding any IEM grant program may be directed to: iem@umn.edu, or Adam Klein at 612-624-8483.

See individual RFPs for application details and instructions