

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON POWERING THE FUTURE OF DISCOVERY

For more than 150 years the University of Washington has been a place where the imagination thrives. Breakthroughs occur every day in laboratories and classrooms across campus, where faculty, staff and students are working together to tackle some of the most intractable problems we face. The challenges confronting society today — such as the need for sustainable energy, affordable health care, and a strong educational system to support it all — increasingly involve finding collaborative solutions involving discovery-driven, fundamental research. In order to position the University of Washington for maximum impact in this new era, the University of Washington announces a new Fund for Discovery-driven Research.

Harnessing the University of Washington's vast intellectual capital and the deeply ingrained spirit of collaboration within its ranks, the Fund for Discovery-driven Research will drive a steady stream of breakthroughs in basic research. Seeded through existing gift funds — including the President's Fund for Emerging Priorities — the Fund for Discovery-driven Research will leverage expertise broadly across campus as well as engage external partners in faculty-led work. It will foster robust research collaborations, advancing high-risk, high-payoff work that promises to be transformational and disruptive but for which other funding sources are limited.

The Fund for Discovery-driven Research will encourage, nurture, bring together and celebrate the most creative thinkers in our midst.

Structure and Process

Each year the University will solicit concept papers in a process devised, issued and overseen jointly by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs and the Office of Research. These concept papers will be requested in all fields of discovery-driven research, with an emphasis on collaborative work that is groundbreaking and truly transformational. All faculty at the UW are eligible to submit concepts. Projects will be funded at a level of \$250,000 annually for up to two years. We anticipate that multiple new proposals will be chosen each year, with funding decisions recommended to the President by the Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs and the Vice Provost for Research, based on input from a panel of UW members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. Awards will cover project costs, including faculty, staff and student time to carry out the work, as well as equipment, supplies and travel. Awardees will provide annual reports to the Vice Provost for Research.

Giving Opportunities

The Fund for Discovery-driven Research is a major new opportunity for philanthropic individuals and organizations to boost exciting and revolutionary new discoveries, fueled by the imagination of our most creative thinkers. Opportunities exist to contribute both to current-use funds and endowments, and if desired, to specific areas of discovery-driven research.

To learn more about how to support the Fund for Discovery-driven Research, please contact:

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