

Life Sciences

DISCOVERY FUND

New Commercialization Grant Award Competitions in 2009

The Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) announces a new commercialization grant award competition.

- Move promising, early-stage technologies through the 'valley of death' (the segment of the commercialization pathway where funding is difficult to come by because the research work is considered too applied for federal funding and too risky for private investment)
- Support research often referred to as "prototype development," "proof of principle," and "reduction to practice" to enhance commercialization of new technologies to improve health and health care within Washington State
- Eligible recipients are Washington private non-profit and public institutions
- Industry collaboration encouraged
- \$750,000 in total awards for each of two competitions per year
- Grants will be up to \$150,000 for work to be completed within one year
- Applicants submit pre-proposals (two pages) to be reviewed by commercial experts
- Full proposals (ten-pages maximum) to include additional supporting materials such as a detailed budget
- Commercial potential of the proposals will be reviewed by a single panel of commercial experts
- Scientific merit of the proposals will be reviewed by experts convened by the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- With input from the commercial review panel, the LSDF Board of Trustees will make the final decision regarding awards
- More information on the LSDF Funding Opportunities webpage at: www.lsdfa.org/grants/current.html

Grant Reviewers Sought

LSDF will assemble a cadre of qualified Washington-based experts to review the commercial merit of the proposed research. Reviewers will be drawn from this cadre according to the subject matter of the proposals received.

- LSDF invites nominations of individuals from the business community for participation as commercial reviewers. Reviewers must have demonstrated, direct experience in commercializing technologies within the health care sector. Such experience may have been obtained as an active investor, inventor or entrepreneur, or from other relevant participation in the process of moving new technologies through the research and development phase to the marketplace.
- Signing up as a commercial expert reviewer is an easy process.
- Visit: www.lifesciencesdiscoveryfund.org/grants/signup.html to complete the brief online form, which includes contact information, a brief statement of the areas of the individual's business and commercial expertise, and a list of three professional references along with their affiliation and contact information.
- As a Washington State authority, LSDF is committed to the highest standards of integrity and objectivity. LSDF has conflict of interest and confidentiality policies in place for external expert reviewers. You will find the policies online at: www.lsdfa.org/about/background/policies.html
- In January 2009, the LSDF Board of Trustees will begin approving commercial reviewers and will add additional reviewers over time to maintain a robust cadre of experts.
- The first pre-proposal review meeting is slated for early March 2009 with full proposal reviews in early July. The second round of pre-proposals will be reviewed in mid-August with full proposal reviews in mid-November.

LifeSciencesDiscoveryFund.org