This document describes central guidelines for the equitable distribution of bridge funding for investigators in the School of Medicine. The resources to support this funding will reside with the Dean and allocation will depend upon perceived need and potential return. It is critical that the Chairs have major input into the allocation process. We have reviewed policies currently in place at other institutions, and recommend the following process.

1. **Location of the Program**: The program will reside in the Dean’s office in the Medical School.

2. **Distribution of the Funds**: The Dean will distribute the money based on the recommendation of a Bridge Funding Resource Committee comprised of 3-5 senior faculty and chaired by the Vice Dean for Research.

3. **Eligibility requirements**:
   - Any SOM faculty whose indirect costs are reported through the School of Medicine.
   - Applicants must have evidence of an independent research program (i.e. have received federal funding), have applied for renewal or Foundation funding in support of this project, and be judged likely to continue such funding pending resubmission.
   - All submissions must be made by the Chair of the PI’s department with a cover letter outlining the benefits of bridge funding to the Department and Institution and the Chair’s level of enthusiasm.
   - The Department must specify departmental resources that will be committed to support all or part of the request.
   - No individual applications will be considered.

4. **Departmental matching funds**: The department will be expected to match any funds 1:1

5. **Evaluation of the requests**:
   - Review of the PI’s current research including recent publications and manuscripts submitted or in press. (Please submit CV).
   - History of external and recent internal support.
• Priority scores and funding cutoff of unfunded grant applications.
• Submission of external scientific review sheets along with a one-page statement of how the investigator will respond to the critique.
• Statement of expected resubmission date.
• Statement of how bridge funding will be applied and how it will lead to extramural funding.
• Remaining funding sources in the laboratory. Priority will be given to laboratories lacking significant overall funding.
• Consequences to the research program because of lack of bridge funding.

6. **What are allowable expenses**
   All expenses that support the research enterprise including personnel, supplies animals etc. are allowable. Faculty salaries are not allowable.

7. **Maximum individual award and number of awards**: Maximum award is expected to be ~$50,000 for one year, but can be adjusted according to need. Only a single award will be given to any investigator within a five year period. The total number of awards will depend on resources. If the investigator misses the targeted deadline for resubmission, as promised to the review group, funding will be withdrawn.

8. **Total Pool size**: To be determined.

9. **Are the bridge funds a grant or loan?**
   They should be a grant.