

Do you have a fundamental research idea that could change the world? Is it high-risk/high-reward? Is it so risky that no government agency would fund it? If so, you should apply for a Keck Foundation grant opportunity!

The Opportunity:

Focus areas: Science and Engineering (including biomedical engineering) projects or Medical Research; Award: \$1 million+ over 3 years, payable in June 2024

UNM is seeking cutting-edge **medical research** and **basic science & engineering research** projects to consider for presentation to the W.M. Keck Foundation. As such, we're conducting **one internal idea development and limited competition process for both Main and Health Sciences Campuses**. This process, outlined below, aims to provide opportunities for new collaborations and feedback, and then to identify and select competitive ideas.

Deadline to submit presentations: **April 21, 2023**

The Keck Foundation supports pioneering discoveries **that are high risk-high reward (i.e., too risky to receive federal funding at this stage)**.

Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for projects in research that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies
- Represent innovative, distinctive, and interdisciplinary advancements that potentially involve paradigm shifts on a fundamental science level

Keck does NOT typically fund field studies, clinical trials, capital projects, medical devices/translational research, or other applied research projects.

About the Keck Foundation Awards (<http://wmkeck.org/>)

The Keck Foundation Research Program supports projects in science, engineering and medical research that are distinctive and novel, question the prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory in their field. **The Keck Foundation is seeking proposals that explain how a project is going to significantly change the world. Thus, proposals must:**

- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Have the potential for transformative impact, such as the founding of a new field of research, the enabling of observations not previously possible, or the altered perception of a previously intractable problem
- Not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project's success

Both senior and early career investigators are encouraged to apply. Team approaches, including interdisciplinary teams, are encouraged.

The Limited Competition Process*

**UNM’s Main Campus and Health Sciences Campus PIs will participate in this unified process for selection of internal awardees.*

Bring your idea to the Keck Foundation Lightning Pitch and Networking Event!

- Summarize the information below in a 8–10-minute Zoom presentation (slide template is found on the right side of the screen in InfoReady Review (<https://unm.infoready4.com/>) to a panel of interested attendees, prospective collaborators, research development professionals and Keck experts (program liaisons/past awardees). Note: The University community may be invited to this event. A 10-minute maximum time limit will be strictly enforced.
- Your presentation should be created for an educated, lay audience who may not be experts in your field and should focus on the potential impacts of your project. Proposal ideas may be in various stages of development. After each lightning pitch, attendees may ask questions, offer feedback or share ideas to create something truly innovative! With feedback from this networking event, individuals or teams are encouraged to develop one-page concept papers for a limited competition. A maximum of four concept papers from the Medical Research category and four concept papers from the Science and Engineering category will be selected to present to the Keck Foundation for feedback in July 2023.

- **Title Slide**

- Include your project title, name, and school, department and/or center.

- **Slide 1: Overview of the Project**

- Provide an overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies. Remember, **the Keck Foundation funds basic, exploratory science, and is looking for transformational, not incremental, research. Explain how your project is fundamental and basic, not applied, research. NSF defines basic and applied research as:**

Basic Research (Keck)	Applied Research (Not Keck)
Basic research is the pursuit of new scientific knowledge or understanding that does not have specific immediate commercial objectives, although it may be in fields of present or potential commercial interest	Applied research applies the findings of basic research or other existing knowledge toward discovering new scientific knowledge that has specific commercial objectives with respect to new products, services, processes, or methods.

- If your concept does not have the potential to transform your field of research, it is unlikely to be competitive.

- **Slide 2: The Team & Methods**

- Describe your team members and a description of your methodologies. If you are seeking additional expertise for your team, explain that here, too.

- **Slide 3: Why Keck?**

- How is your project groundbreaking/transformational/risky?
- Why should Keck fund it (why have public agencies declined to fund this work?)
- Impact—how your project will change the world?

You do not have to propose a detailed budget at this time, but bear in mind that:

- PI salary cannot exceed more than 10% of annual
- Keck will not pay any F&A but these costs can be imputed as cost share
- Keck will not pay tuition
- Keck will not pay any costs for government/national laboratory collaborator salaries

Schedule: Limited Competition Multi-step process

1. Both Main Campus and HSC applicants should submit presentation slides via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/> no later than noon on **April 21, 2023**. Note: A committee will review your submission and presenters will be selected based on the number of presentation slots available and fit with Keck's program. You will receive confirmation of selection by April 28. You will be expected to attend the Virtual Pitch Presentations during the **week of May 1** to share your pitch.
2. Participate in the limited competition process by submitting your 1-page concept paper through InfoReady Review by **May 22, 2023**. *Only presenters and their collaborators who participated in step one will be eligible to submit.*
3. The Limited Competitions Review Committee will make selections by **May 31** and will notify all competitors. If selected, be prepared to work with Betsy Till at the UNM Foundation to finalize your one-page concept paper for submission to the Keck Foundation by **July 1, 2023**

Example Awards

<https://www.wmkeck.org/our-focus-research/#focus-abstracts-research>

Questions?

Main Campus and HSC applicants can contact limited@unm.edu with questions about this Limited Competition process.

You may also contact Betsy Till, Sr. Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the UNM Foundation at (505) 313-7678 or betsy.till@unmfund.org with any questions about the Keck Foundation.