AGENCY: W. M. Keck Foundation

PROGRAM: The UB Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development and the UB Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations are pleased to invite faculty investigators to consider the following funding opportunities offered by the W.M. Keck Foundation (http://www.wmkeck.org).

OBJECTIVES: Located in Los Angeles, the Keck Foundation supports pioneering research projects at US universities and research institutions through two program areas: 1.) Medical Research and 2.) Science & Engineering.

The Foundation utilizes a two-phase application process: a Phase One Letter of Inquiry (LOI), followed by an opportunity to submit a full Phase Two Proposal if invited. Applicant institutions may submit one LOI per grant cycle for each of the Medical Research and Science & Engineering program areas.

Unsolicited proposals are not accepted. Initial contact must be coordinated through the UB Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Personnel contacting the Foundation directly will be referred to this office. Keck Foundation staff typically schedules phone discussions with institutional liaisons regarding potential Phase One submissions between July 1 and August 15 (leading up to a November 1 submission).

Both senior and early career investigators are encouraged to apply. Funding is awarded to universities and institutions nationwide for projects that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- 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
- Are projects that would not normally receive funding from federal agencies
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches, or by challenging the prevailing paradigm
- Are innovative, distinctive and interdisciplinary
- Have the potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation or methodologies
- Do not focus on clinical or translational research, treatment trials or research for the sole purpose of drug development
• Demonstrate that private philanthropy generally, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in particular, is essential to the project’s success

ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS: UB may submit only one application per round in each program area.

FUNDING INFORMATION: Grants range from $500,000 to $5 million (typically $2 million or less), with a duration of 1-5 years (typically 1-3 years). For abstracts of research projects funded by the Keck Foundation, please see: http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-abstracts-final/research

INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS: In keeping with Keck’s limited submission guidelines, we encourage interested investigators to forward two-page concept papers to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development by May 15, 2015 for consideration for the next funding cycle (November 1, 2015). Suggested elements include:

• Overview of the proposed project, indicating proposed program area (medical research or science & engineering research) and emphasizing unique aspects and/or pilot studies
• Brief description of methodologies, key personnel, and timeframe;
• Brief justification of the need for Keck Foundation support (e.g. why Keck as opposed to other sources).

In addition, include biosketches for the project’s key investigators. Submit the concept paper and CVs as a single pdf to ovpr.limitedsubmission@research.buffalo.edu.

Questions about this program should be sent to Don Elick, Assistant Vice President for Corporate and Foundation Relations at donelick@buffalo.edu