Overview
The Innovation Grant Program seeks to support projects that use research-quality methods to design, implement, and/or evaluate innovative solutions to operational problems or areas in need of improvement at the University of Chicago Medicine. Recently, this emerging field where operational innovation and research intersect has been called healthcare delivery science in the literature [1, 2, 3, 4]. Through this grant program, UCM aims to identify and develop future innovators and create value for our patients.

Types of Projects Eligible for the Program
We are interested in project submissions impacting anywhere in the health system. Therefore, the proposed innovation may focus on any site of care or service formally associated with UCM, including for example outpatient areas, procedural areas, pharmacy, or the inpatient units.

Additional requirements and guidance:
- We are broadly interested in operational innovation – this means anything from patient care-focused clinical pathways to innovations in the way we manage supplies, capital expenditures, etc.
- Projects must be clearly aligned with the operating goals and mission of University of Chicago Medicine. We strongly encourage all applicants to review the UCM Strategic Plan and the 2018 Annual Operating Goals
- Projects must involve a multidisciplinary team. Projects whose team members are of a single discipline are less likely to be funded.
- We are interested in healthcare delivery science: high-quality science in the operational realm. Therefore, proposals that do not interface with the operational realm and only with research (e.g. basic science studies, randomized controlled trials of experimental drugs) are not eligible for funding.
- Projects must include a strong evaluation plan that will clearly result in disseminating results in the peer-reviewed literature at the end of the project period.
- Projects must be feasible to conduct during a one-year period.

Eligibility
All University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences Division employees and active medical and research staff are eligible to apply as individuals or as part of a team. Under most circumstances, research teams should include members of more than one discipline. One or more members of the team must have research experience that is adequate to design and carry out a rigorous evaluation of the targeted innovation. Trainees must work with a faculty mentor. Recipients of the Innovation Grant must be prepared to offer a 1 year commitment to the University of Chicago-centered project.

Awards
This program is generously supported by a private philanthropic donor, with matching support from the Office of the UCM President. We will award up to 3 awards in the range of $25,000 -
$50,000 each, for a one-year project period. Project funds may be used to provide salary support, supplies, assistance with data collection, or statistical expertise.

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**Key 2018 Dates**

**Partnership with and support from existing UCM resources**
If the success of your project depends on use of (or change in) existing UCM resources, we encourage you to reach out to those resources early in your preparation for this proposal. You will find the team engaged and willing to support your research idea:

- Research methods and analysis: John Fahrenbach, PhD Data Scientist, Healthcare Delivery Science & Innovation
- Center for Research Informatics data requests: Julie Johnson, MPH, RN CRI Business Analyst
- CBIS services: John Moses CBIS Liaison for Research
- Quality improvement project ideas: Samantha Ruokis, Director, Quality Performance Improvement

**What to submit**

**Application**
On or before **March 16, 2018**, submit the complete proposal as described in Proposal Instructions and Format, below. You will submit this online.

What to Include:
1. Project document (one pdf, details below)
2. Detailed Budget Document (one pdf, details below)

**Questions**
We are excited to help with the process. Please reach out to Farah Ahmed, MHA, MPH, Project Coordinator (**farah.ahmed@uchospitals.edu**)