

# W. M. Keck Foundation

UC Irvine Foundation Relations

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## Approaching the Keck Foundation

*The Keck Foundation supports outstanding science, engineering, and biological science research that is distinctive and new. Technology development that creates the potential for a significant leap forward in scientific discovery and/or provides a gateway into a completely new area of research is highly encouraged.*

*Do not contact Keck directly, but instead go through UCI's liaison, Roxanne Ford (Roxanne.Ford@uci.edu).*

Young faculty are encouraged as PIs or co-PIs.

**Overview:** Keck focuses on enabling **pioneering discoveries** that overturn prevailing paradigms or promote new solutions to old problems. They encourage development of new technology, but want to know what **new science** it will enable. They do not want projects that reflect the “next logical step” in your research, but rather encourage broad and creative thinking. **If your project would be competitive at NIH or NSF, it is not going to be of interest to the Keck Foundation.**

### Characteristics of Successful Proposal:

- Broad and creative thinking regarding important and emerging areas of research
- Pioneering discoveries that overturn prevailing paradigms or promote new solutions to old problems

### Awards

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Up to \$1,000,000 over  
3-4 years; no indirects

### Deadlines

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December awards
Campus deadline for concept papers: November 15
Counseling with Keck: January 1 to February 15
Phase I (LOI) deadline: May 1
Notification of invitation to submit full proposal: July 15
Full Proposal Deadline: August 15

June awards
Campus deadline for concept papers: May 30
Counseling with Keck: July 1 to August 15
Phase I (LOI) deadline: November 1
Notification of invitation to submit full proposal: January 15
Full Proposal Deadline February 15

- Development of new technology and the new science it will enable.

**Not Funded by Keck:** Translational or clinical research; vector and drug development; miniaturization of existing technology; alternative energy and biodiversity studies are generally not considered.

### Submission Process

- Two opportunities per year to send in one-page white papers for feedback from program staff
- Two requests can be submitted in any given cycle—one each in Science/Engineering and Medical Research
- Process is overseen as a limited submission by the Office of Research. Contents of the concept paper are included below.

### One-page concept papers

- **Abstract:** Provide an executive summary of this project, including overall goal, methodology and significance, for a well-educated lay audience. Emphasize the new science or quantum leap in established field that this project will enable.
- **Unique Aspects:** Describe unique or distinctive aspects of this project. Emphasize innovative technology development, if applicable.
- **Key Personnel:** Name the key personnel and describe their expertise, role in this project, and any collaborations.
- **Budget:** State total cost of this project, amount requested from the Keck Foundation, and the amount of institutional support. Describe how funds requested from Keck will be allocated among capital, personnel and equipment.
- **Justification for KECK support:** Explain why support from the Keck Foundation is essential for this project (i.e. this project is not likely to be supported by NIH, NSF or other typical funding agencies). Name specific NIH/NSF prior submissions and reviewer's comments if possible.

## UC Irvine Awardees

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2014

Science & Engineering,  
\$2,000,000, Filippo Capolino

2013

Science & Engineering, John  
Hemminger, \$1,000,000

Medical Research, Anthony  
James, \$1,000,000

2012

Science & Engineering, Derek  
Dunn-Rankin, \$1,000,000

2011

Science & Engineering, H.  
Kumar Wickramasinghe,  
\$1,000,000

2010

Medical Research, Enrico  
Gratton, \$1,000,000

## Websites

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**Keck Foundation Research  
Program:**

<http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research>

**UCI Foundation Relations:**

<http://grants.give.uci.edu/>