

KRUPP ENDOWED FUND

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2026 FUNDING

Summary

The UC San Diego Krupp Center for Integrative Research (KCIR) Krupp Endowed Fund (KEF) is soliciting applications for funding beginning July 1, 2025. These awards are funded up to \$50,000 per year for 1-2 years. Applicants must be responsive to the **Primary Aim**, **Primary Objective**, and **Research Priorities** as described below. **KEF** studies are typically small, exploratory research projects that generate hypotheses or pilot data needed to design a larger, more definitive study.

For a listing of previously funded KEF projects, visit <https://cih.ucsd.edu/research>.

Primary Aim

- To support research that examines the benefits of natural, complementary and alternative medicine and integrative medicine approaches that show the greatest promise of bettering human health for the largest number of people, at the lowest cost, without the use of prescription drugs or surgery.

Primary Objective

- To support innovative clinical research in the fields of diet/nutrition; medicinal food and herbs; homeopathy; and food derived macro- and micronutrients (which include vitamins and minerals).

Research Priorities

Priority will be given to research projects that meet the **Primary Aim** and **Primary Objective (above)**, and also:

1. Promote active involvement of patients in their own care.
2. Address the health needs and conditions and/or involve the participation of those with limited means.
3. Utilize inexpensive, readily available, and natural approaches, treatments, and products.
4. Incorporate a team approach to care (e.g. group-based intervention programs).
5. Involve Centers for Integrative Health (CIH) patients or those who participate in CIH clinical, nutritional, or educational programs.

Support for Development of Project Ideas

KCIR offers potential applicants the opportunity to discuss and review potential project ideas that prospective applicants may wish to develop for submission. For those who want to submit a concept idea for review, KCIR will advise applicants on potential relevance of proposed project concept ideas as they relate to the objectives of the KEF. Please submit your concept idea for review online at <https://cih.ucsd.edu/research/apply-funding>.

Award Information

Funds will be disbursed annually. The first year of funding will be allocated upon submission of IRB application. The second year of funding will be released upon approval of an annual progress report. All funds not spent by the end date of the project award may be carried forward pending approval of a no-cost extension. At the end of the project, investigators must return any unexpended funds to the KEF.

Application

A. Eligibility

1. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to apply for a grant, a potential applicant must be a UC San Diego faculty or staff member **and** a member of the KCIR. To become a KCIR member, complete the following online survey: <https://cih.ucsd.edu/research/form/kcir-membership>. UC San Diego faculty or staff who successfully complete the online survey will be automatically granted membership.

2. Eligible Research Projects

Eligible projects will need to meet the following requirements:

- Focus on diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of common, clinically significant, or costly health conditions (in which introduction of a natural CAM/IM approach could improve clinical outcomes, ameliorate suffering, or reduce costs) without the use of prescription drugs or surgery.
- Address the use of one or more Complementary, Alternative, or Integrative Medicine (CAM/IM) approaches in the fields of natural diet (may also include lifestyle focus if part of a comprehensive diet and lifestyle program); medicinal foods and herbs; food-derived macro- and micronutrients (which include vitamins and minerals); and homeopathy.
- Other CAM/IM research projects will be considered on merit after all existing work in the fields above have been exhausted.

The following types of projects are allowed:

- Self-contained research projects that generate pilot data needed to design a larger, more definitive study.
- Clinical studies that bring credibility to previous low-level research already done by others.
- Clinical studies that also employ a basic science component to determine biological mechanisms of CAM/IM approaches (as specified above).
- Epidemiologic (observational) investigations of effects of CAM/IM use on important health outcomes in specific patient populations.
- Health services research addressing cost, utilization, or satisfaction with CAM/IM care.

B. Applications will be received in two stages:

1. The first stage requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) that will be reviewed for scientific merit and program relevance. The LOI must include: Principle Investigator and Co-Investigator name(s), title of project, type of study, requested grant type/funding level, core services requested, and 500-word maximum narrative. We suggest writing the abstract in a Word document and then copying/pasting into the online LOI form at <https://cih.ucsd.edu/research/form/krupp-loi>.
2. The second stage, a full application, is by invitation only based on review of the LOI. Each full application must follow a required template that includes:
 - (a) Research plan (4-page limit with the following sections: Specific Aims (1 page), Significance and Innovation (1 page), and Approach (2 pages));
 - (b) Literature cited (no page limit);
 - (c) Budget and budget justification (no page limit);
 - (d) Biosketch(es) of P.I. and key personnel (include other support); and
 - (e) Letter(s) of support (as appropriate).

C. All submissions should adhere to the following format specifications:

1. 11-point Arial font
2. Single-spaced
3. 0.5 inch margins on all sides
4. 8 ½" x 11" (i.e. standard size) pages
5. Number all pages
6. Combine all pages into one document
7. Microsoft Word or PDF format
8. At the top of the first page:
 1. Title of proposed study
 2. PI name(s)
 3. Amount of funding requested per year, listed by year
9. Include requested KEF core services to be utilized in study
10. Name final file as "**PILastName_AbbreviatedStudyTitle_FY26**"

D. Deadlines, Notices, and Funding Cycle Dates:

1. **Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline:** LOI must be received via electronic submission by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025.
2. **Notice of LOI Decisions:** By Jan. 31, 2025.
3. **Full Application Deadline (by invitation only):** Full application must be received via electronic submission by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time, Mar. 30, 2025
4. **Notice of Awards:** ~ May 2025
5. **Funding Cycle:**
 1. Starts FY 2026 (Jul. 1, 2025)
 2. Funds allocated upon submission of IRB application (estimated ~ Oct. 1, 2025)

E. Evaluation Criteria

All submissions should be well-written, precise, and succinct.

LOIs are scored for eligibility (including alignment with Primary Aim, Primary Objective and Research Priorities), scientific merit (significance of problem, feasibility of project, and confidence in PI/research team), cost efficiency, and programmatic impact.

Full applications (if invited) will be subject to a comprehensive scientific and programmatic review. The following scoring criteria will be used in the Scientific Review to evaluate applications:

1. **Significance.** Does the project address an important (clinically significant, costly) health problem or a critical barrier to progress in a field of research?
2. **Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or Interventions?
3. **Approach.** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? Is the project feasible?
4. **Environment.** Will the scientific and clinical environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
5. **Investigator(s).** Is/are the investigator(s) well suited to the project? If the investigators are in the early stages of their careers, do they have appropriate experience, training and senior mentorship? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?
6. **Programmatic review criteria** include: strategic alignment with KEF aims, objectives and priorities; efficiency and responsibility in use of grant funds; and demonstration of greatest impact to society and future research, if funded.

The highest scoring applications will be presented to a funding committee who makes the final decisions.

F. Core Services

Study efficiency is an important factor in our consideration. In order to reduce the cost of all of our grants, depending on availability, the KCIR may be able to provide selected core research services such as:

- Consulting on CAM/IM modalities
- Access to specific CAM/IM practitioners
- Access to specific patient groups
- Access to healthy volunteers
- Research design and grant application development
- Support in consent form development/IRB application and correspondence
- Questionnaire selection and design
- Dietary counseling / intervention
- Nutrition / anthropometric / behavioral assessment
- Database development / management
- Statistical support
- Manuscript preparation

We strongly recommend that potential applicants contact KCIR to **discuss availability of services** and their customization in support of your project's success and cost-effectiveness: KruppREC@ucsd.edu.

G. Presentations and Publications

Awardees are expected to publish their findings in scholarly peer-reviewed journals and present their research at professional meetings. All publications, grants, and presentations resulting from research funded by the KEF must cite the UC San Diego Krupp Center for Integrative Research as the funding agency and indicate the grant title and number. If a project is required to be registered at Clinicaltrials.gov, the Principal Investigator is responsible for doing so before beginning the research.

H. Progress Reports

All investigators selected for funding will be required to submit a bi-annual progress report. This report will consist of a detailed description of progress to date, which includes: IRB approval and any amendment date(s), subject recruitment and enrollment, adverse events, milestones, study modifications, a budget update, and a listing of all submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded), meeting abstracts, and seminars relating to the project. We now request that all progress reports be submitted online through our website.