

### **Request for proposals: COVID-19 - Surgery in the second wave**

In view of the extraordinary results generated by projects supported by the initial round of seed funding for COVID-19 research, the Department of Surgery seeks to fund up to 5 additional clinical research projects related to COVID-19.

As with the previous request for proposals (RFP), we seek proposals from residents, fellows and faculty in the School of Medicine. Medical students also may apply but must include a faculty co-investigator. This is a one-time funding mechanism intended to fast track innovative research proposals that directly address the clinical needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly at Yale, the Yale-New Haven Health System, and in Connecticut. These awards will support research with the potential for significant and rapid impact on and understanding of human health with respect to the disease (COVID-19) or the causal virus (SARS-CoV-2). Previously funded projects will not be considered for additional/continuing support under this mechanism; however, previously successful applicants are encouraged to submit novel proposals.

Proposals should focus on the effects of COVID-19 infection or on COVID-19-related variability in the care of patients with underlying surgical disease or seeking surgical intervention, whether or not the patients of interest are themselves infected with SARS-CoV-2. We are particularly interested in proposals that identify, or seek to improve our understanding of, possible COVID-19 related effects on health system utilization and variability in patient treatment and outcomes among patients with surgical disease. Studies that examine potential economic impacts of COVID-19 related challenges in or changes to surgical practice (including training) will be considered, as will proposals that examine factors such as vaccine reactivity, changes in patterns of patient care (e.g. Wave-1 vs. Wave-2; quantification telehealth utilization, etc.) and ICU utilization.

Interested investigators must provide a two-page application that describes the proposed project, including specific aim(s) and a testable hypothesis, plus a separate budget. The submission should include the following:

- Cover Page (Project title, principal investigator name and affiliation, names and affiliations of co-investigators/collaborators, date of submission.)
- Two-page Project Narrative to include:
  - Hypotheses and specific aims
  - Research strategy
    - Significance of proposed research
    - Innovation
    - Approach
  - Plans for subsequent funding
- A separate one-page budget

The maximum funding anticipated for any single project is \$5,000.00. Collaborative projects with the involvement of multiple investigators either within or outside the Department are encouraged.

Proposals should be submitted to Chesley Jeppesen no later than 11: 59 PM on Feb. 15, 2021. Successful applicants will be notified on or before March 1, 2021.

Please direct any questions about this opportunity to the Vice Chair of Research, Peter J Gruber, MD, PhD