

## WELCOME TO FUELING OUR FUTURE 2021: THE INTERNAL FUNDING SHOWCASE

Welcome to the second annual University of Pittsburgh Internal Funding Showcase. We are excited once again to bring resources and recognition to faculty members who are brimming with innovative ideas related to both research and teaching. We congratulate this year's awardees and hope that this showcase helps to spread your enthusiasm for interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching across our campus, into the community, and beyond.



**As you may know, when Pitt's Momentum Funds** were created, they restructured and extended a group of existing research development funds (the Central Research Development Fund, Social Science Research Initiative, and Special Initiative to Promote Scholarly Activities in the Humanities) into a tiered set of awards designed to offer support across multiple stages of large, ambitious projects.

- **Seeding Grants** support significant and innovative scholarship by individual or small groups of faculty members.
- **Teaming Grants** support the early-stage planning and capacity building of large multidisciplinary projects.
- **Scaling Grants** support the detailed project planning, gathering of proof-of-concept results, and reduction of technical risk so that teams can competitively pursue large, complex extramural funding.



An important focus of the Momentum Funds is to support partnerships. We want to set our faculty teams up for success, so the default setting for the funds is "collaborate." Because of that, we've selected for ideas that span disciplines and the campus organizational chart. University-level support lowers barriers and allows faculty to focus on their projects.

This year, we encouraged a range of interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches to address social injustice. In response to the crises of 2020, our staff and members of the University Research Council made a concerted outreach effort across campus to let faculty know that we welcomed proposals addressing systemic racism, histories of racist structures, impact of race/ethnicity on social determinants of health, preexisting racial inequities highlighted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, or arts-based race or social justice storytelling and creative performance.

The responses and results have been amazing. We saw projects that responded to difficult, complex, systemic societal challenges by forming rich partnerships across campus and deepening their ties with dynamic nonprofit organizations.

As Pitt researchers know—as we look to grow our impact and our reach—funding agencies look for results-driven inquiries that can contribute meaningful insight, deeper understanding, or robust solutions to societal challenges through an array of scientific, clinical, public policy, business and technical innovations. Watch the Momentum Funds [video](#) and be inspired by the ways this year's awardees are opening a new chapter of impressive scholarship here at Pitt.

We also want to highlight the Pitt Seed Grants, another important source of internal funding. The Pitt Seed Projects play an instrumental role in transforming the University of Pittsburgh. View the [highlight videos](#) from some of the recent Pitt Seed Projects for an inside look into how the University community is carrying out our strategic vision.

We extend our deep appreciation and thanks to all the reviewers and to the members of the University Research Council. Without your dedication and hard work, these awards would not be possible.

With thanks and best wishes,



**Ann E. Cudd**  
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor



**Rob A. Rutenbar**  
Senior Vice Chancellor for Research