RU FAIR Life Cycle Grants  
Call for Proposals

Introduction:
The RU FAIR program is pleased to announce the RU FAIR Life Cycle Grant program. Life Cycle grants will be available to Rutgers faculty (tenure-track or tenured, male or female) in NSF supported disciplines (http://www.umbe.edu/promise/pages/NSF%20supported%20fields.htm) who are at critical junctures in their professional careers and who face potential significant impediments to their research productivity because of personal life events (either those that they are currently experiencing or those that they have experienced that still are affecting research and other professional responsibilities). The award of these funds is intended to ensure that the pace of research slows as little as possible, and that scientists facing life transitions can continue their research and teaching responsibilities even when events in their personal life are making or have made significant demands on their time and other personal resources.

These grants are meant to be flexible and faculty may apply for varying amounts and for diverse academic purposes. The overall aim is to assist faculty members to maintain productivity or meet key professional commitments and/or deadlines when unexpected personal events interfere with critical career junctures.

Eligibility:
These funds will be available to tenure-track and tenured faculty members at Rutgers University in NSF supported disciplines (http://www.umbe.edu/promise/pages/NSF%20supported%20fields.htm) who are unable to devote the necessary time to their research and/or teaching responsibilities because of unexpected life events, currently occurring or having occurred in the past.

Life events/transitions may include, but are not limited to:
- Personal Illness
- Complications associated with childbirth or adoption
- Events involving spouse, parent, and/or child care (illness, death)
- Balancing personal and professional lives
- Combination of major life events

To qualify, a faculty member must be facing or have faced an unexpected or complicated personal demand on time that is currently negatively impacting productivity or the ability to achieve goals that are necessary for continued career advancement.

Administration:
Life Cycle grants will be administered through the RU FAIR program at Rutgers University. Applications will be reviewed by the Life Cycle grants committee and selected experts, as needed.

The support may be used for up to one year for a number of purposes such as release time, research support (including temporary technical support to maintain or complete essential experiments), conference travel (domestic), temporary teaching support (e.g. hiring teaching assistants), temporary administrative assistant (e.g. hiring a work study student), timely completion of a paper (e.g. getting professional editorial advice), preliminary data for a grant (hiring a technician or graduate student), and/or temporary assistance with duties related to teaching. The aim is to enable the recipients to carry out their job commitments, their personal obligations and still keep up with research demands.

Because critical life events cannot, usually, be planned in advance, deadlines for submission of applications will occur each semester and possibly in the summer.
For the 2009-2010 academic year, the deadlines are:
- **Friday, October 30**th, 2009 by 5pm
- Friday, February 26**th**, 2010 by 5pm
- June 2010 (**depending on availability of funds**)

Approximately five to seven grants ranging from $500 to $5,000 will be awarded; the level and number of awards will depend on budget availability.

If your situation significantly improves after you have been awarded a life cycle grant, you should report your changed circumstances to the RU FAIR Life Cycle Grants Committee. It will review your situations and reserve the right to reduce the original grant to an amount appropriate to the new situation. Please keep in mind that funds are limited and that if you do not need to use the entire amount awarded, those funds can be redistributed to someone who does.

**Application:**
- Write a statement of need in three pages or less. The statement should at minimum address four main points:
  - Why this is a critical moment in your career?
  - What is the life event you are experiencing/have experienced and how has it affected your research/teaching progress?
  - How will the requested funds help you enhance your research and/or teaching?
  - What are the costs/consequences of not receiving the funding?
- Include your CV and funding record (current & pending)
- Itemized budget with dates, amount, and intended use of funds
- Letter of support from your department chair is encouraged, but not required (this is especially important if your request is for release time).

All awardees must report to the Committee at the end of the semester in which they were awarded the grant and again at the end of the award period. Such reports should be written and should inform the Committee how and the extent to which the funds helped you in your professional life. These reports will enable the Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

**CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**
Applications will remain confidential within the Life Cycle Grants Committee. The Committee understands that the application and the reports may involve revealing sensitive personal information. The only exceptions to strict confidentiality would occur in the unlikely event that your communications with the Committee indicate that you are at risk of harming yourself or others, or in certain very specific situations in which there are legal obligations to report information, such as indication of child abuse. In such exceptional circumstances, we would be required to share the necessary information with the proper authorities.

If you have any questions about the Life Cycle grants, please contact Dr. Natalie Batmanian ([Natalie.batmanian@rutgers.edu](mailto:Natalie.batmanian@rutgers.edu) or 732-445-2771).

Please submit hard copy application in sealed envelope marked confidential to:
Natalie Batmanian, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, & Mathematics
640 Bartholomew Rd (RUTCOR Modular Unit)
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Disclosure Statement:
The RU FAIR Life Cycle grants program complements existing university faculty policies. Please see the Rutgers University Human Resources website for other policies and programs that assist with work-life balance, including leave policies, eldercare, child care and other life events (http://uhr.rutgers.edu/faculty.htm).