

**To: Duke University Faculty**  
**From: Larry Carin, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Research**  
**Nan Jokerst, Ph.D., Executive Director, Shared Materials Instrumentation Facility**  
**Subject: 2016 SMIF Voucher Program**

**OVERVIEW:** The Shared Materials Instrumentation Facility (SMIF) is an interdisciplinary shared resource providing researchers with high quality and cost effective access to advanced materials characterization and fabrication capabilities (see <https://smif.lab.duke.edu/>). To give investigators the opportunity to utilize these services for research that is not yet externally funded, yet has high probability for external funding with results obtained utilizing SMIF resources, the Vice Provost for Research is pleased to announce the **2016 SMIF Voucher Program**. This program will offer vouchers in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$7,000, redeemable for SMIF fees. A summary of SMIF's capabilities and equipment can be found at: <https://smif.lab.duke.edu/pdf/SMIFoverview.doc>.

There are multiple ways to access SMIF, including:

- (1) As a user (SMIF Staff training is available);
- (2) Collaborate with a SMIF user;
- (3) Service by SMIF Staff.

Researchers interested in exploring how SMIF can enable or enhance their research are encouraged to contact Nan Jokerst ([nan.jokerst@duke.edu](mailto:nan.jokerst@duke.edu)) or Mark Walters ([mark.walters@duke.edu](mailto:mark.walters@duke.edu)) to discuss SMIF's capabilities and facilitate introduction to potential collaborators.

**REQUIREMENTS:** SMIF vouchers in any category of research will be awarded to faculty at the Assistant, Associate or Professor level with a primary appointment in a Duke department. Primary investigators for the voucher proposals are limited to a single application per cycle, Co-investigators are unlimited per cycle. Award recipients will be required to submit a one-page progress report within one month of the voucher end date detailing how the funds were used, publications resulting from the work, and target dates for submitting external funding applications based on the work.

**FUNDS:** Vouchers may range from \$500 to \$7,000 and must be spent within twelve months of the award date. Awarded funds are not renewable or transferable, and are solely provided to cover the costs of services incurred at SMIF.

**PROCESS:** Application packets should include the following: 1) A one-page cover sheet with your name, department, contact information, proposal title, and total funds requested; and 2) A one-page proposal describing the research question to be investigated, rationale, proposed plan, and justification for the dollar amount requested (11-point font, 0.5" margins). The deadline for submission is February 15, 2016.

**AWARDS:** Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee chaired by the Vice Provost for Research. The committee will be charged with selecting innovative proposals that will benefit substantially from the use of SMIF. **Awardees will be announced by email on or around March 15, 2016.** We regret that reviewer comments and scores will not be available for applications that are not chosen for funding.

**Important dates for the 2016 SMIF Voucher Program:**

- Submission Open: January 15, 2016
- **Submission Close: February 15, 2016**
- Voucher Start: March 15, 2016
- Voucher End: March 14, 2017

Please note:

- All documents should have 0.5" margins with font size of at least 11 points
- Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file

**Please submit completed applications to [kelly.lindblom@duke.edu](mailto:kelly.lindblom@duke.edu) by 5 pm on February 15, 2016**

Questions on the RFP? Please contact Kelly Lindblom, Ph.D., OVPR Assistant Director of Research Initiatives at 681-2629 or [kelly.lindblom@duke.edu](mailto:kelly.lindblom@duke.edu)

Questions about SMIF? Please contact Nan Jokerst, Ph.D., Executive Director, Shared Materials Instrumentation Facility at [nan.jokerst@duke.edu](mailto:nan.jokerst@duke.edu), or Mark Walters, Director, Shared Materials Instrumentation Facility at [mark.walters@duke.edu](mailto:mark.walters@duke.edu)

<http://research.duke.edu/funding/OVPR-RFPs>