Rationale and Requirements: The College of Medicine has established a funding program targeted to active mid-career and senior investigators with strong funding and publication histories, a record of valuable service to MUSC, and difficulty obtaining R01 (or equivalent) support in the past 18-24 months. The funding program will support a newly established research team of two faculty members with different but complementary expertise to conduct basic, translational, or clinical research.

Team members may have faculty appointments (Associate or Full Professor) in the same or different departments. The long-term goal is for both team members to successfully compete for R01 support.

Funds Available: $150,000/year

Duration: Two years

Progress Reports and Oversight: Progress reports at 6-month intervals will report publication preparation and submissions and grant preparation and submissions. It is expected that two NIH R01 or equivalent proposals will be submitted (one from each PI) by the end of the funding period.

Nomination: Research teams can self-nominate or be nominated by their department chair(s).

LOI Timeline and Detail:

- Announcement, August
- **Nominations & Letters of Intent due by September 15** - submit to Mary McConnell at mcconnem@musc.edu; suggested format:
  - The team members
  - The general area of research that the two grants will be centered around
  - The significance and innovation of the two grant proposals that will result from the COMETS grant
  - Existing preliminary data and new data that will be developed from the COMETS grant to support new R01 applications and joint team publications
  - A statement that the chair(s) supports the COMETS application and is/are copied on the letter
  - **Two page limit**

- **Selection of teams to submit full applications, October 1**

Application for selected teams only (Limit 6 Pages) due in November

Components:
- Specific Aims
- Significance and Innovation
- Approach
- Facilities
- Clinical or public health relevance and relation to strategic mission
- Team science justification and multiple PI plan
- Six-month and 1-year milestones for publications and grant submissions

Additional components:
- NIH biosketches
- Two recent summary statements
- Budget (NIH page 4 and 5, initial year and total budget period)*
- Budget justification
- Letter of support from chair(s)
- Names and contact information for 3-5 intramural or extramural reviewers
* Up to $20,000 per year per PI may be used for PI salary support.