The Office of the Associate Provost for Research announces the 2015-2016 Research Equipment Enhancement Fund (REEF). The purpose of the fund is to allow active investigators and/or departments to replace aging, obsolete or damaged research equipment, or to acquire new research equipment that represents the latest technology. The overall goal of the program is to assist MUSC faculty in purchasing instrumentation necessary to attain their research goals. The program will provide up to $50,000 per successful application and a total of 5-6 awards are anticipated for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Applications for equipment that will benefit multiple research groups will be given the highest priority and requests where matching funds equal to 50% of the cost or above will be more competitive. Requests for high-speed computer workstations for molecular graphics or high-capacity information management are allowed, but REEF funds may not be used to purchase desktop computers, laptop computers or software packages for routine use. Applicants may request service contracts for an extended warranty as part of an instrument purchase, but REEF funds may not be used to purchase service contracts for existing equipment. REEF funds also may not be used to supplement externally funded equipment grants such as an NIH S10 Shared Instrumentation Grant, and faculty start-up funds may not be used to provide a match. All requests must be suitably justified, and the equipment purchased must be directly relevant to the research program of the PI.

REEF applications should be submitted as a single PDF file, and should contain the following:

1. A cover letter outlining the equipment to be purchased, the amount being requested, and amount of matching funds, if applicable. This letter should be co-signed by the department chair or unit head.
2. A valid quote from the supplier for the equipment being requested.
3. A short justification for the request, including the utility of the equipment for research and the names of potential faculty users.
4. Detailed description of the equipment, its location and accessibility, and availability of similar equipment elsewhere.
5. Budget and budget justification, including installation and maintenance costs. The budget justification should include a statement describing a plan for long-term maintenance of the requested item, if applicable.
6. Source of matching funds and/or funds to make up the difference if equipment/installation will cost more than $50,000
7. A Biosketch for the PI of no more than 5 pages in NIH format that includes all current and recent funding. If the equipment is to be jointly shared between two or more labs, then Biosketches for those PI’s should also be included.

Application packets should be submitted by the indicated deadline to:

Ms. Robin Hanckel,
Office of the Associate Provost for Research,
Colcock Hall,
hanckelr@musc.edu

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.