Pending review, the Dean may assign AEF support for the research of School of Medicine faculty members within two categories: (i) Established investigators who have lost all major grant funding but who are likely to regain support if assisted by bridge funding, and (ii) Young investigators whose start-up funding has run out without their gaining independent research support. A competitive review for this program will be held this year in April and November. At each review session up to $50,000 may be assigned to up to 10 individual applicants. Support from this program can be applied only to salary for research staff (technician, PA, postdoctoral fellow, graduate student), maintenance contracts, and supplies. Salary for the faculty member is considered to be the responsibility of their department and is not eligible for support by this program. Applications to this program should be made by the faculty member, but a letter from the researcher’s Chair is an essential component of the application, as described below. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of senior investigators.

Eligibility Requirements for All Investigators

- Any member of the School of Medicine faculty at TCH, the Anschutz campus, or National Jewish whose indirect costs are assigned to the School of Medicine is eligible to apply.
- The goal of this initiative is to allow productive individual faculty members at any stage of their career to continue their research as they seek secure funding.

Eligibility Requirements—Established Investigators

- Previously funded investigators who have sustained a complete loss of major grant funding (or will do so within the next few months) are eligible to apply.
- “Loss of major grant funding” pertains to loss of any type of research funding based on national competitive peer review, not just that from the NIH. Investigators with funding for conducting research that totals less than $75,000 are eligible; funding from any source should be included in this total. Any funding for the investigator’s salary support should not count against this total.

Eligibility Requirements—Beginning Investigators

- Faculty members at the beginning of their research careers are eligible if they have had (or will shortly have had) at least 3 years of full start-up funding and that funding has run out without their gaining independent research support. The applicant must also have applied at least once for major funding. The applicant must have, and must describe, assigned research space that is independent of that of any other investigator.
- Investigators with research support from any source that totals less than $75,000 are eligible. Any funding for the investigator’s salary support should not count against this total. Please give an approximate dollar figure for the start-up research support (not salary) given by the department.
- The Chair’s letter for these applicants should describe a mentoring plan for the applicant as well as a pledge of full salary support. The Dean’s bridge funds should not be expected to take the place of departmental start-up investment.

General Conditions of the Funding

- If the applicant is successful in obtaining outside funding before receipt of one of these AEF grants or within the first 6 months after receipt, the unused funds should be returned to the Dean’s Office so that they can be used for support of additional faculty members.
A brief summary of progress toward gaining outside funding must be submitted to the Dean after 12 months from receipt of the funds.

A successful applicant may re-apply once if eligibility requirements can still be met and progress can be shown toward obtaining secure funding.

An unsuccessful applicant for this AEF support can re-apply once.

Application Format
The application should adhere to the following format:

- **Summary of current research**, with description of recent publications and manuscripts submitted or in press
- **History of outside or departmental support and current funding circumstances**. All current research funding should be described according to major categories of use (personnel, supplies, animals, clinical costs, etc.). Funding for the applicant’s salary should be clearly separated from that for the applicant’s research. Priority scores and funding cutoff levels of unfunded grant applications should be listed. (Funding details may be listed in the NIH biosketch by adding to the NIH format.)
- **Potential for funding**. A primary criterion for awarding support will be the likelihood that the individual will regain funding, or in the case of beginning investigators, gain initial funding. How will the concerns from the last grant review (“pink sheet” if from NIH) be addressed? It will be incumbent on the applicant to make the case that he/she is fundable.
- **Statement of how bridge funding will be applied**, if received.

The absolute limit for these four components will be 2 pages, 12-pt font, single spaced. Three additional components make up the complete application:

- NIH biosketch, limit 3 pages, with full description of any current funding added to NIH format (see above)
- Summary statement from unfunded grant application(s) (“pink sheet”) and most recent score obtained by phone if not otherwise available.
- Letter from Chair sent directly to the Dean (see below)

Do not attach other appendices. Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

Guidelines for Letter from the Applicant’s Chair or Division Chief
A letter from the individual’s department chair (or division chief in larger departments) will be an important component of the application. The letter should address the quality of science, the applicant’s promise as a researcher and potential for regaining funding, the importance of the individual to departmental activities, what the department will do to support the investigator’s salary, and other relevant information. If the applicant functions primarily as a member of a center or program (excluding a graduate program), the director of that center/program should also write a letter. The letter should be sent directly to the Dean electronically, with electronic copy to Richard Johnston (SOM, not Facilities Ops—and note spelling), by no later than 5 pm, Thursday, March 29.

Deadline for Submission of Applications to this Program
Eight (8) copies of the application should be delivered to CJ Klingler in the Dean’s Office (Bldg 500, 1st floor (top of stairs), east wing, Rm E1354) by no later than 5 pm, Thursday, March 29. Questions may be addressed to Richard Johnston, MD, Associate Dean for Research Development.