

Dear Colleagues,

Dean Daley, Dean Doyle, Dean Williams and I are pleased to announce the 2019 call for applications for the Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research. The Challenge, formerly known as the Star Family Challenge for Promising Scientific Research, was established in FAS and SEAS in 2013 to provide seed funding for high-risk and high-impact research projects in the natural and social sciences. This year we are excited to expand the program to Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH), and we invite ladder faculty members from FAS, SEAS, HMS and HSPH to submit single- or multi-investigator proposals for consideration.

The Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research is looking to fund research that, because of its originality and high-risk approach, may not receive support through traditional funding channels. With a focus on interdisciplinary and creative work, the Challenge will select up to five projects annually for awards up to \$300,000. These funds are intended to catalyze cutting-edge scientific research.

A committee of faculty members from FAS, SEAS, HMS and HSPH will select award recipients, who will be invited to refine their projects and discuss their ideas with an interdisciplinary group of scholars at a Challenge event in May 2019. The committee will be looking to fund projects that can attain demonstrable results within one year. Longer-term projects will need to show milestones of success upon a one-year review.

To submit an application or to learn more about this opportunity, please visit the [Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research](#) website. Applications will be accepted through February 28, 2019.

It is the hope of the deans and the founders that the Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research will expand opportunities for Harvard researchers to pursue ever more novel areas of inquiry, unburdened by the constraints of traditional funding and conventional thinking. All faculty, especially those who are early in their careers, are encouraged to apply.

Sincerely yours,

Claudine Gay  
*Edgerley Family Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences*