

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the 2021 call for applications for the Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research. The Challenge was established to provide seed funding for high-risk and high-impact research projects in the life, physical, and social sciences. This program welcomes applications from a broad range of fields and perspectives, with proposals focusing on pandemics encouraged in the 2021 cycle. Together with Dean Frank Doyle, Dean George Daley, Dean Michelle Williams, and Dean William Giannobile, I invite ladder faculty members from FAS, SEAS, HMS, HSPH and HSDM to submit single- or multi-investigator proposals for consideration.

The Star-Friedman Challenge for Promising Scientific Research aims to fund research that, because of its originality and high-risk approach, may not receive support through traditional funding channels. These funds are intended to catalyze cutting-edge scientific research. With a focus on interdisciplinary and creative work, Challenge grants will ordinarily range from \$80,000-\$150,000. In truly exceptional circumstances, the committee may consider larger awards.

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 Spring 2021. 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 5pm EST on March 1, 2021.

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. All faculty, especially those who are early in their careers, are encouraged to apply.

Sincerely,

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