The purpose of the Mini-Grant Program is to support new and innovative research in the areas of hearing, balance, and communication sciences by University of Washington faculty who are either established investigators in any of these fields, or established investigators in other areas and who wish to enter these areas of research. The Mini-Grant program is funded through the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center Endowed Fund, established through the generosity of an anonymous donor with a particular interest in hearing research. While the committee will give initial consideration to proposals directly related to hearing, awards have historically been given across a range of disciplines. Funds may be awarded to proposals in related areas with the potential to advance the goals described in the VMBHRC Mission Statement (attached).

Conditions:
- A maximum of $10,000 will be awarded for two grants submitted during the application period.
  - If after this application period there are funds remaining, we will accept applications up to $10,000 on a rolling basis – you can apply any time during the year until we have reached our maximum award amount.
  - While it is not the intent of these $10,000 grants to support faculty salaries, up to 20% of this award may be used for faculty salary support when no other sources of such support are available other than teaching. Please acknowledge the circumstances in your application.
- A maximum of $5,000 will be awarded for one grant submitted throughout the year.
- The Applicant must be a University of Washington faculty member and an affiliate of the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center.
- This funding source must be acknowledged in papers or presentations of the research.
- Grants are for one year and non-renewable. The Grantee must request an extension if funds are to be expended over an additional year.
- A year-end report is required for each grant. This should include list of publications and funding applications from the mini-grant work.
- All Mini-Grant recipients studying human subjects are required to complete CITI prior to human subject testing. This includes anyone, including students, who are working face-to-face with research subjects. The Primary Investigator should retain proof that the course was completed prior to seeing subjects in their laboratory.
  - The CITI Program offers a free, 4-6 hour online course appropriate for all research disciplines. Web-based CITI training includes:
    - Human Subjects Protections
    - Good Clinical Practice
    - Responsible Conduct of Research

https://www.washington.edu/research/hsd/training/required-training/web-based-citi-training/

Mini-grants will not be used to support:
- Student or faculty travel. (Funds for faculty travel to conduct research are available through the Bloedel Traveling Scholars Program).
- Proposals to make up for budget cuts from federal or state agencies, or private foundation, or for bridge funding when a research grant has a funding lapse.
- Salaries of UW Faculty (for $5,000 grant)
- Institutional Overhead
**Mini-Grant Application**

**Grant Application Period**

- **$10,000 Grant (2)**
  - Application period opens: November 1
  - Application period closes: December 15
  - Notification by: January 15

- **$5,000 Grant (1)**
  - Apply throughout the year until the Mini-Grant is awarded

**Instructions for preparing either application:**

1. Include a signed cover letter addressed to the “Affiliate Liaison Committee”.
2. Written proposal (maximum 5-pages) to include the following:
   - Abstract, background, significance, research plan, and budget.
   - A list of current active research funding.
   - An explanation of how the proposed work relates to, or interacts with, existing funded research activities.
   - A description of how this research fits the mission of the Bloedel Center.
   - Publication list will not be included in the page count for the 5-page proposal
3. NIH Biosketch (or similar)

Please submit proposals as **one single document in pdf form** to:

- Subject Line: Mini-Grant Program
- To: Wendy Parkinson – parkiw@uw.edu
- % Jay Rubinstein – rubinj@uw.edu

The Affiliate Liaison Committee (ALC) and the Director of the Center will review the Mini-Grant applications. The ALC will vote on the merits of the applications and select the awardees. You will be emailed an approval or denial notice.

Call or email with questions to Wendy Parkinson at 206-616-4105, or parkiw@uw.edu.