

WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 1

A brief overview of the Research Grand Challenges Process.

Page 2

Suggestions to prepare for the first symposium.

Page 3

Suggestions to prepare for the second symposium.

Grand Challenges Research Symposia

Process and Presenter Guide

September 26, 2022

Research Grand Challenges Process

Symposium 1 | October 28

This phase brings together CU Denver researchers to conceptualize ideas for grand challenges and the research expertise they could provide to address them. Individuals or small groups present a three-minute pitches with their initial ideas and attempt to recruit others to contribute to building out their concept.

Symposium 2 | November 18

Based on feedback from the first symposium, this phase brings together teams of researchers to build out a more detailed presentation. Teams are expected to be interdisciplinary, span multiple schools and colleges, and commensurate with the expertise needed to address the grand challenge. Similarly, topics around which teams form should be grand challenges suitable for convening researchers across the institution, e.g., eventually a research institute or major research center.

Proposal Preparation | March

Coming out of the second symposium, teams prepare letters of intent and respond to an RFP with full proposals outlining their vision for seed funding and support. There is no limit on the number of teams that can submit proposals. Proposals will be selected for funding through a review process that evaluates both intellectual merit and broad impact of the proposal. All submitted proposals will be reviewed by internal and external experts.

Team Launch | May

After review, a limited number of teams will be selected for funding. Seed funding, anticipated activities (program building and research), and expectations will be negotiated as part of the selection process. University support will be provided in the form of: project management/admin, proposal management/writing, DEI expertise, and identification of research opportunities and building of connections to relevant program managers in federal agencies, foundations, etc. Teams will soft launch by the end of the academic year before being formally announced in the fall.

Symposium 1 Guidance and Preparation

About the Symposium

The objective of the first symposium is to begin building energy around potential grand challenge initiatives upon which CU Denver should consider investing. Faculty will share 3-minute pitches about the areas that should be considered. After each pitch attendees will have the opportunity to share their name with the presenter if they would like to collaborate intending to begin building teams of collaborators around that particular idea.

Pitch Content

Pitches are intended to persuade others to join together as collaborators. Therefore, pitches should clearly state the research focus you are inviting CU Denver to consider investing in and explain briefly why the focus presents a strategic advantage for CU Denver. Additionally, pitches should explain how the faculty's work ties into the particular focus area.

Pitch Logistics

Presentation slides are encouraged. To use a slide deck, please be sure to submit your presentation ahead of time following guidance in your registration confirmation.

Each pitch will be strictly limited to 3 minutes; presenters will be cut off at that time. Presenters will be provided a signal at the 1-minute mark to help keep track of time.

More than two presenters are welcome to co-present, but the same 3-minute time limit applies.

Symposium Follow-up

Following the first symposium, presenters will be provided a list of attendees, as well as the names of those who expressed interest in collaborating. Presenters will also receive specific guidance regarding next steps for registering/presenting at the second symposium, if they choose to do so.

Symposium 2 Guidance and Preparation

About the Symposium

The objective of the second symposium is to hear further-developed ideas from interdisciplinary teams and to inspire robust dialogue between attendees. Teams of faculty will share 5-minute presentations. After each pitch attendees will have the opportunity to respond, asking questions and challenging ideas as a tool for further refinement.

Pitch Content

Presentations in the second symposium are encouraged to be more formal, including visual slides. Similar to the first symposium, presenters should clearly state the grand challenge initiative the group has agreed to pursue and explain clearly why the research focus presents a strategic advantage for CU Denver. Each presentation should explain the extent of coverage the research area already has through the team members' work and highlight any gaps that will need to be covered through additional hiring or through partnership with researchers from peer institutions. Additionally, presenters should convey a clear sense of funding sources and external partnerships the group intends to pursue in support of their work, if selected for seed funding. Presenters should lastly include a project timeline for moving the project towards tangible outcomes, and state the type of outcomes.

Pitch Logistics

Presentation slides are encouraged. To use a slide deck, please be sure to submit your presentation ahead of time following guidance in your registration confirmation.

Each pitch will be strictly limited to 5 minutes plus 5 minutes of question and answer. Presenters will be provided a signal at the 1-minute mark to help keep track of time.

More than two presenters are welcome to co-present, but the same 5-minute time limit applies.

Symposium Follow-up

Following the first symposium, you will receive specific guidance regarding next steps for submitting a letter of intent and full proposal, if they choose to do so.