

McCABE FUND AWARD PROGRAM

GUIDELINES for CHAIRS AND JUNIOR FACULTY – 2026-2027

Program details have changed this year – please review all materials carefully.

1. BACKGROUND: The Thomas B. and Jeannette E. Laws McCabe Fund was established in 1969 through a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. McCabe to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. They hoped to help junior faculty in the early stages of their research careers initiate fresh and innovative basic or clinical biomedical/surgical research projects that could lead to continued funding and productive research. For over 50 years, the McCabe Awards have provided important start-up funding.

2. JUNIOR FACULTY ELIGIBILITY: Open to clinical junior faculty (Assistant Professors) of the Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Dental Medicine appointed between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2026.

-This opportunity is open to junior clinical (CE and AC) track faculty. Tenure and research track faculty are not eligible to apply.

-Junior faculty (Assistant Professors) who have received no or limited extramural research funding are eligible; these funds cannot exceed **\$140,000** in total. K awards, including the K08 award, are *excluded* from this \$140,000 limit.

-The amount of departmental start-up funds received by the applicant does not affect eligibility. However, this amount will be taken into consideration by the Committee when awards are determined.

-Instructors, associates, previous awardees, and senior faculty are not eligible.

-Applications should be based on basic or clinical biomedical research; health services research is also eligible.

-An awardee of a previous year may not submit a new or continuation proposal for the current year. Only one application per applicant. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply the following year, provided they continue to meet the other eligibility requirements.

3. McCABE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The McCabe Fund Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Ronald DeMatteo, is comprised of senior PSOM faculty members with strong research backgrounds. The Advisory Committee oversees the application process, reviews applications, and, at its annual meeting in June, determines the number of awards based upon the amount of interest earned by the fund that fiscal year.

4. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES: A call for McCabe applications and guidelines are sent to department chairs (and division chiefs as applicable) and then disseminated to their junior faculty. The applicant submits one complete application to their department chair. Each department may submit a **maximum of four applications; the Department of Medicine may submit up to five**. If interest exceeds these limits, the department chair will select the most competitive applications to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on behalf of the department.

The application must be signed by the department chair and accompanied by a letter of support from the department chair or division chief, as well as a letter of support from the applicant's mentor. The application should be submitted via email to the McCabe Fund Advisory Committee, c/o Kaitlyn Hagarty, kaitlyn.hagarty@penntestmed.upenn.edu. **The deadline for submission is Friday, May 8, 2026.**

5. McCABE FUND AWARD: Effective this year, the McCabe Fund Award Program will offer a single award type, the McCabe Fund Award, with a fixed funding level of \$50,000 per award. The previous Fellow and Pilot Award categories have been discontinued as part of programmatic updates. As a result of this change, fewer projects will be funded than in previous years. All selected awardees will receive funding at the \$50,000 level.

7. NOTIFICATION: Once award decisions have been made, all applicants, their department chairs, and business/financial administrators will be notified in early July of the Advisory Committee's award decisions. Awardees should follow up with their Financial Administrators immediately to set up their accounts (by July 31st) to begin their projects. Financial Administrators will receive a set of instructions for creating the account from the PSOM Dean's Business Office. The McCabe Fund is a gift, and awards should not be funneled through your institution's formal grant tracking system.

8. FUNDING PERIOD: Award funds should be spent in the 18-month award period – August 1, 2026 to January 31, 2028. However, should the award announcements be delayed, adjustments to the spending year will be considered. **Funds not expended within the approved award period should be returned and may not be used for other projects or transferred to other faculty in the department.**

9. PROGRESS REPORTS (previous awardees): At the end of this award period, awardees should provide a brief (one to two page) progress report providing project results and listing all published or pending papers. Awardees should acknowledge McCabe Fund support in any resulting publications as follows: "This work was supported (*in part*) by The Thomas B. and Jeannette E. Laws McCabe Fund at the University of Pennsylvania." Progress reports should be submitted via email to the McCabe Fund Advisory Committee, c/o Kaitlyn Hagarty, kaitlyn.hagarty@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

10. Important Dates:

February 9, 2026	Applications distributed to Department Chairs
May 8, 2026	Deadline for 2026-2027 Applications
June 2026 (TBD)	Advisory Committee meets to determine awardees
July 2026	Notification of awardees
July 31, 2026	Deadline for departments to create awardee accounts
August 1, 2026	Award funds become available for fiscal year 2025-2026
January 11, 2027	2025-2026 Awardee progress reports due

<https://www.med.upenn.edu/evdresearch/mccabe-fund.html>