VT CoE Major Grants Initiative (MGI): Scaling Scholarship Information Session

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Major Grants Initiative

- Launched the **Major Grants Initiative (MGI)** in 2025 to secure large-scale, high-impact research funding
  - Supports pursuit of center/institute-level grants (think of NSF ERC, STC; DOE EFRC; NIH P50/U54, and others)

Two funding tracks:

- Track 1 – Team Formation
- Track 2 – Strategic Expansion
- Designed to seed new collaborations and scale established teams

MGI “Track 0” - Scaling Scholarship Program

MGI Scaling Scholarship Program

- Part of the MGI program umbrella, the **Major Grants Initiative (MGI) Scaling Scholarship Program** was launched to support high-impact scholarship
- Recognizes that scholarship is not only a marker of academic excellence but also is a critical starting point for building major research initiatives

Designed to strategically connect latest research outputs to future large-scale research efforts

General Information

- Designed to offset scholarship-related expenses, including
  - article processing charges
  - open access fees for journal publications
  - conference registration and publication fees
  - other dissemination costs

- Faculty may submit any peer reviewed journal article or conference paper published or accepted after January 1, 2025
- Each selected submission will be eligible for up to $4k in support

Eligibility and Expectations

- Open to CoE faculty members
- Each faculty member may submit **no more than one** proposal to this program

Expectations:

- Proposals will have outstanding scholarly impact
- Placement in a highly selective venue
- A clear and credible pathway towards major external funding

Key Dates & Timeline

Submission Windows in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026

Acceptance Window Opens: September 19, 2025

Deadline: November 14, 2025

Acceptance Window Opens: November 16, 2025

Deadline: February 6, 2026

Submit via the portal as a single PDF using the designated template

Proposal Requirements

- Submit a single PDF that includes:
  - Copy of your accepted or published paper
  - One-page narrative addressing the criteria
    - Scholarly impact and pathway to large initiatives
    - Selectivity and prestige of the venue
    - Funding sources
  - Copy of the acceptance letter
  - Any supporting documentation on selectivity

Review Criteria

- The scholarly merit and potential impact of the work
- The selectivity and prestige of the publication venue
- The credibility of the pathway toward large-scale external funding

Awarded Proposals

"Differential roles of deterministic and stochastic processes in structuring soil bacterial ecotypes across terrestrial ecosystems"
Jingqiu Liao (CEE) et al.
Nature Communications, 2025

"Dissolved Fe species enable a cooperative solid-molecular mechanism for the oxygen evolution reaction on NiFe-based catalysts"
Hongliang Xin (CHE) et al.
Nature Catalysis, 2025

"LLM-SR: Scientific equation discovery via programming with large language models"
Chandan Reddy (CS) et al.
International Conference on Learning Representations, 2025

"The Fidelity-based Presence Scale (FPS): Modeling the effects of fidelity on sense of presence"
Ryan McMahan (CS) et al.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2025

"Low-temperature Leidenfrost-like jumping of sessile droplets on microstructured surfaces"
Jiangtao Cheng (ME) et al.
Nature Physics, 2024

Questions?