



# CONVERGE UC SAN DIEGO'S BIG IDEAS INITIATIVE

Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla and Vice Chancellor for Research Sandra Brown launched UC San Diego's Big Ideas Initiative in 2019 to uncover and support the growth of efforts to solve some of the most pressing global issues of our time. This focused initiative, recently renamed CONVERGE, stimulates and supports transformative big ideas from our campus community, especially as they align with UC San Diego's strategic priorities.

## what is converge?

At UC San Diego, **CONVERGE** starts with a big idea that is greater than us. Uniting the best minds, cross-campus resources, and an inclusive range of partners — and fueled by transformational support from forward-thinking philanthropic partners — we develop nontraditional solutions that have the power to change our planet and improve lives everywhere. **CONVERGE** is how we solve global challenges, together.



## OVERVIEW

A recent surge of transformational funding opportunities from the private philanthropic sector has targeted big ideas that will enact major change and solve current and emerging global issues. Although such funding competitions do not carry a strict limit on submission, many strongly encourage institutions to focus efforts on one or a small number of projects that represent the strengths of the institution. As such, UC San Diego has developed a protocol to facilitate the internal project selection and leadership endorsement that has been adopted by a number of peer institutions, including other University of California campuses.

The overarching goal of our big ideas protocol is to identify projects that strongly align with transformational funding programs, are at the requested stage of development, and are the most competitive. The Office of Foundation Relations and Strategic Initiatives (FR) and the Office of Research Affairs (ORA) collaborate closely to manage these efforts and increase awareness of emerging projects as well as improve UC San Diego's competitiveness for these high-value opportunities. Strategies are currently under development for a proactive approach to uncovering potential big idea projects and matching teams with additional private and public funding.

