THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
INFECTIOUS DISEASES INSTITUTE

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEED GRANTS: GUIDELINES

The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) is committed to advancing infectious diseases and microbiology research. The IDI seed grants are intended to foster interdisciplinary collaborative efforts and to enhance competitiveness for defined extramural support. Funding provided by IDI should be thought of as a "venture capital initiative," invested for the purposes of growth and return on investment (ROI). Therefore, it is important that requests provide sufficient rationale and evidence for the strong probability of success in near-future extramural funding applications and clearly articulate how funding will benefit the efforts of the IDI.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS
All requests for research funding will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Significance/Scope and Impact:** The research project should address an important problem or critical barrier in the field of infectious diseases or microbiology, and further the goals of IDI by contributing to meaningful advancements in one (or more) of the following thematic programs (A-F) or crosscutting areas (G-I):

    A. Antimicrobial Resistance
    B. Ecology, Epidemiology & Population Health
    C. Host Defense and Microbial Biology
    D. Microbial Communities
    E. Prevention, Detection & Therapies
    F. Viruses & Emerging Pathogens

    G. Education & Outreach
    H. International Studies
    I. Data Analytics, Modeling & Networks

2. **Innovation/Extramural Potential:** Specific aims and proposed work should be novel and innovative. The potential for ROI for the research project in the form of subsequent extramural funding is critical. Applicants should identify clear plans to apply for external funding that are based upon the proposed work. Applicants should address why IDI funding is critical to this effort.

3. **Investigator(s)/Interdisciplinarity:** Proposals for funding are required to be interdisciplinary research efforts (*defined as at least two disciplines ;disciplines can be within the same college.and two colleges/units*). The unique aspects of the proposed team/network and the team's collaborative approach should be addressed. The demonstrated or potential productivity and quality of the investigative team will be considered during the evaluation process. The PI(s), collaborators and other researchers should be well suited for the project and have complementary and integrated expertise.

4. **Level and Availability of Funding:** The maximum amount of a single seed grant will be $25,000, and grants will be funded for one year. (Note the IDI Executive Committee may make strategic investment decisions to fund an additional year of research beyond the initial year.) The amount of funding requested should be carefully considered given the scope and impact of the request. Feasibility, scope, and magnitude of the project relative to the request will all be taken into consideration by reviewers. The budget should be realistic, appropriate and well justified. **There is no cost-share requirement.**

TWO FUNDING CYCLES

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS	APPLICATIONS DUE	EARLIEST START DATE
September 1	October 1	December 1
March 1	April 1	June 1

EVALUATION
Seed grant applications will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers—representing all six of the IDI thematic areas—using an NIH-style review format and scoring system. Recommendations for funding from the review panel will be submitted to the IDI Executive Committee for approval. Funding decisions will be communicated via email within 60 days of the proposal due date. A formal award letter requiring your signature will be sent prior to the release of funds.

FUNDS

Seed grant funds from the IDI will be transferred to the recipient's unit (e.g., department). A unique program value has been established for use in the chartfield for tracking purposes. Funds are not to be used to cover prior period expenses or to cover a previous deficit. Funds are not to be transferred within the unit once the transfer from the IDI is made. The IDI business manager will work with your unit's fiscal professional to coordinate the fund transfer.

PARTNERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

If a request for funding is approved, it is expected that:

- Grantees must provide a progress report at the end of the one-year funding period. IDI will provide a template for submission of the progress report. Progress reports must be concise, written for a general audience, include appropriate graphics (e.g. photos, charts), and be suitable for publicizing via online and print media.
- Grantees must acknowledge support from the OSU Infectious Diseases Institute in resulting publications.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEED GRANTS: APPLICATION

The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) has allocated funds for interdisciplinary research that aligns with its mission and goals. Criteria for award funding include (1) scientific merit, (2) trajectory for success, (3) the interdisciplinary nature of projects and teams and (4) likelihood for future external funding. Priority will be given to proposals that are well aligned with IDI thematic programs or crosscutting areas. **IDI Interdisciplinary Seed Grants are not intended to provide "bridge funding" (i.e., provide resources for a project that has stalled due to lack of funding).**

SUBMISSION AND APPLICATION

1. Applications are limited to three-pages, including charts, graphs, and tables. Budget, budget narrative, biosketches, timeline, and references are NOT included in the three-page limit.
2. Applications must be single-spaced, have half-inch (.5) margins and 11-point font.
3. Applications are due at 5:00PM EST on the proposal due dates shown in the funding cycle table above. If the due date falls on a weekend or university holiday, the due date is the next business day at 5:00PM EST.
4. Applications must be submitted as a single PDF document.
5. PI's are limited to one application per funding cycle.
6. Completed applications must be submitted to IDI@osu.edu
7. Applications must include:
   A. Introduction
   - **Title** of proposal
   - **Collaborators:** Provide a list of all team members (PI, faculty, staff, and students); include their affiliation (college and department), their research project role and how their responsibilities will contribute to success. Unique expertise among investigators should be identified.
   - **Impact:** Which thematic program(s) or crosscutting area(s) (see list in *Guidelines*) does the research align with? Articulate the problem and describe the gap addressed by the proposed research. (~150 words)
   - **Abstract.** Brief lay description of the proposed research project and how it will lead to significant extramural funding that ultimately will solve the identified problem. (up to 250 words)
   - **Innovation:** What is novel and innovative about the proposed project? How is this work distinct from other projects (proposals and awards) of the members of the research team? (~150 words)

   B. Project Narrative
   - **Objectives:** Describe the scope of the project. Include a clear statement of the specific objectives/aims, including hypotheses tested and research questions addressed.
   - **Interdisciplinary Team/Network:** Discuss unique aspects of the team/network. Address how it might enhance our ability to solve a traditional problem and/or how it is unique in terms of establishing new external partnerships, funding or commercialization opportunities.
   - **Rationale and Significance:** What is the significance of the overarching line of research investigation? Include the current status of research, any preliminary results, and summarize

significant published work. How will the requested support position the research team to be more competitive for significant extramural funding?

- **Research Methods:** Briefly articulate a description of the research design, methods, data analysis, application of results, and discussion of any limitations of the procedures.
- **Outcomes:** Provide a detailed description of the outcomes expected from the project (e.g., extramural funding proposals, publications, curriculum development), including new findings and/or insights that will be generated and how activities will be integrated across infectious disease teaching and research. What is the specific plan to translate results of the proposed work to applications for significant extramural funding, including agencies and funding mechanisms?

The following information and Section C "Budget Summary," D "Budget Narrative," and Section E "Faculty Biosketches" are not included in the three-page limit

- **References**
- **Timeline:** Include a table or Gantt chart of key milestones or outcomes and associated deadlines. Include a brief narrative description.

C. Budget Summary:

Item (and brief description)	Requested Funds	Matching Support (*Not required, but list if applicable*)
A. Personnel (Salary & Benefits) *(Note: Faculty summer salary is not permitted).*		
B. Supplies		
C. Equipment		
D. Outreach		
E. Travel		
F. Services		
G. Other		
Total ($)		

D. Budget Narrative: Provide a brief justification narrative

E. Faculty Biosketches: Biosketches for the PI(s) and co-PI(s) must be submitted with the grant *(these pages will not be included in the three-page limit)*