INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEED GRANTS: GUIDELINES

PURPOSE
The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) Seed Grant program is designed to foster interdisciplinary collaborative efforts and to enhance competitiveness for extramural funding by supporting innovative, well-defined research projects. Given that the primary goal of seed grant funding is to grow the interdisciplinary research enterprise in infectious diseases, it is important that proposals provide sufficient evidence that an award will lead to a high probability of success in near-future extramural funding applications. IDI seed grants are not intended to provide bridge funding or resources for projects that have stalled due to lack of funding.

ELIGIBILITY
The PI must be a member of the IDI (to become a member, visit the member page on the IDI website: https://idi.osu.edu). The team of investigators must be interdisciplinary, defined as involving at least two disciplines. (Although interdisciplinary research typically spans multiple departments/colleges, it is possible that a team from a single college could still make a case for interdisciplinary.) Each PI may submit only one application per cycle.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION
Seed grant applications will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers representing the IDI thematic areas, using an NIH-style review format and scoring system. Review panel results will be provided to the IDI Executive Committee for final funding decisions based on availability of funds. All requests for funding will be evaluated against 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):
   - 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

2. **Investigator(s)/Interdisciplinarity:** Proposals should be clearly interdisciplinary in nature, representing two or more disciplines. The team members should be well suited for the project and bring complementary, integrated expertise.

3. **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.

4. **Approach/Feasibility:** The overall strategy and methods to achieve the specific aims should be sound and well-reasoned. Potential problems and alternative approaches should be addressed. Human subject and vertebrate animal considerations should be briefly described.

TIMELINE AND FUNDING
Applications are accepted twice per year. The maximum seed grant award amount is $25,000 for a one-year project. The amount requested should be realistic, appropriate for the work, and well justified. Cost sharing is not required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CYCLE</th>
<th>REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>APPLICATIONS DUE</th>
<th>EARLIEST START DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>June 1</td>
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FUNDING PROCESS AND EXPECTATIONS
Funding decisions will be communicated via email within 60 days of the proposal due date. Proposals that are not selected for funding may be resubmitted in a subsequent round. A formal award letter requiring signature will be sent prior to the release of funds. The IDI Business Manager will work with the applicant’s college/departmental fiscal professional to coordinate a fund transfer, and a unique program value will be used in the chartfield for financial tracking purposes. Funds may not be used to cover prior period expenses and may not be subsequently transferred to other accounts.

By accepting an IDI Interdisciplinary Seed Grant, the applicant agrees that:

- IDI financial support will be acknowledged in any materials or publications arising from the work.
- Annual progress reporting will be submitted as required.
- IDI org #40490 must be listed on the ePA-005 (at 0% award credit) for any extramural proposals that arise from this award.

June 2019
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEED GRANTS: APPLICATION

Applicants should carefully review the Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant Guidelines prior to preparing an application. If you have questions about the Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant program and whether your proposal meets the criteria for a seed grant (i.e. innovative, interdisciplinary, well-defined research projects), please reach out to the IDI Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant Program chair, Mike Ibba.

Applications are limited to three-pager, including any charts, graphs, and tables associated with sections A “Introduction” and B “Project Narrative” below. References, timeline, resubmission narrative, budget summary table, budget narrative/justification, and biosketches are NOT included in the three-page limit. Applications must be single-spaced with half-inch (.5) margins and 11-point font (or larger). Applications that exceed or attempt to bypass formatting requirements to gain additional space will be returned without review.

Proposals are due at 5:00PM EST on the 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. Applications must be submitted as a single PDF document to IDI@osu.edu. You will receive an email confirming your application submission.

Applications should be organized as follows:

A. Introduction
   • Title
   • Significance and Impact: Articulate the problem and describe the gap addressed by the proposed research. Explain how the proposal aligns with or supports one or more thematic program(s). (~150 words)
   • Interdisciplinary Team/Network: Provide a list of team members and their affiliation (college and department). Describe their project roles/responsibilities and how their involvement will contribute to success. Discuss unique aspects of the team/network and address any new partnerships, collaborations, funding, or commercialization opportunities.
   • Abstract: Brief description of the proposed research project, in terms that are understandable to a general scientific audience. (~150 words)
   • Innovation: Describe what is novel and innovative about the proposed project. State how this work is distinct from other projects (proposals and awards) of the members of the research team. Address how it will lead to extramural funding that ultimately will solve the identified problem. (~150 words)

B. Project Narrative
   • Rationale and Significance: What is the significance of the overarching line of research investigation? Include the current status of research, any preliminary data, and summarize significant published work in the literature.
   • Objectives/Aims: Describe the scope of the project. Include a clear statement of the specific objectives/aims, including hypotheses to be tested and research questions to be addressed.
   • Research Methods/Approach: Briefly articulate the research design, methods, data analysis, application of results, and discussion of any limitations of the procedures. Be sure to briefly address considerations related to human or animal subjects.
   • Expected Outcomes: Provide a detailed description of the outcomes expected from the project (e.g., extramural funding proposals, publications), 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 (including sections C “Budget Summary,” D “Budget Narrative/Justification,” and E “Faculty Biosketches”) is not included in the three-page limit.

   • References
   • Timeline: Include a table or Gantt chart of key milestones or outcomes with their associated dates.
   • Resubmission Narrative: If this proposal is a resubmission, please explain what changes were made to the proposal based on reviewer feedback received from a previous round. (Maximum of 250 words)
   • Animal/Human Subject Information: If this proposal includes animal and/or human subjects, please provide detailed information.
C. Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (and brief description)</th>
<th>Requested Funds</th>
<th>Matching Support <em>(Not required, but list as applicable)</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Personnel (Salary &amp; Benefits) <em>(Note: Faculty effort is not allowable)</em></td>
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<td>B. Supplies</td>
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<td>C. Equipment</td>
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<td>D. Outreach</td>
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<td>E. Travel</td>
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<td>F. Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total ($)</strong></td>
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D. Budget Narrative/Justification

E. Faculty Biosketches: Biosketches for the PI(s) and Co-I(s) must be submitted with the grant. Please use the standard NIH format or similar biosketch to include current and pending funding. Each biosketch limited to no more than 5 pages in length.