

**UVM Translational Global Infectious Disease Research (TGIR)
Request for Proposals: Pilot Awards**

Application Deadline: Friday, December 18, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.



The UVM Translational Global Infectious Disease COBRE announces a competitive request for proposals for two \$30,000 pilot awards.

The goals of the TGIR-COBRE pilot awards are multifold: to expand the critical mass of investigators in the TGIR group working on global infectious diseases; to encourage use of both the HPR (Human and Population Research) and MCP (Mathematical and Computational Modeling) cores; to encourage cross-collaborations between faculty investigators; and to stimulate research for junior faculty who may become research project leaders on the TGIR (“farm team” faculty).

Applications are welcome from faculty from any college at UVM (though current TGIR COBRE Project Leaders are not eligible). Funding priorities include junior faculty eligible to become future research project leaders in the COBRE, proposals highly relevant to global infectious diseases important to *human health or the human health-animal interface or the human health-environment interface* that will enhance the institutional strength of the TGIR COBRE, and proposals using one or both TGIR cores. Infectious diseases impacting low- and middle-income countries or with epidemic potential are of particular interest. **Please note: New this year, we are also encouraging applicants with a human health-environmental project related to global infectious diseases.**

All recipients of funds from the TGIR are expected to become an engaged faculty member in the TGIR and to attend the Thursday weekly TGIR research meetings (10-11:30AM) and the monthly visiting external speaker lecture series. Progress on the pilot-funded research projects will be presented during the Thursday meetings.

Each award will be for \$30,000. Research must be completed within 12 months, with research progress presented 1-2 times annually, as above. Extension of funds beyond 12 months will be considered but cannot be guaranteed.

Pilot applications are based on an abbreviated NIH format using PHS 398 standard fillable forms; this is necessary since some of these documents will be needed by the NIH after the final award recipients are chosen. Note that the research strategy section differs significantly from that required by NIH.

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The components of the application must include the following. Use the embedded hyperlinks to access form templates and detailed instructions:

- **PHS 398 Page 2 form** (Complete Project Summary box on first page only - limit to space provided)
[Project Summary Template.](#) [Instructions on Page 20.](#)
- **PHS 398 Budget & Justification form** (see Budget Considerations section below)
[Budget Template.](#) [Instructions on Page 22.](#)
- **NIH-format Biographical Sketch for PI** (5-page limit)
[Biosketch Template.](#) [Biosketch Instructions.](#) [Biosketch Example.](#)
- **NIH-format Specific Aims** (1-page limit)
[Instructions on Page 33.](#)
- **Research Strategy.** There are three required sections. Detailed instructions are provided below. The entire research strategy should not exceed **4 pages**, not including references. (Note that these instructions differ from those for a standard NIH R01 or R21 proposal.)

Writing the Research Strategy (maximum of 4 pages)

Section I. What is your idea? (max 1 page)

Provide a title for your pilot project and use this section to briefly describe your idea.

- Indicate in one or two sentences the essence of your idea and why it is significant for global infectious diseases in humans.
- Describe your hypothesis, including any preliminary data (optional), background, and rationale.

Section II. How will you test it? (max 2.5 pages)

Use this section to briefly describe the project design and implementation plan.

- Briefly describe your experimental plan, and specify key controls to be included, potential results, and interpretations and alternative approaches.
- What essential data will be generated?
- If successful, what are the next steps (e.g., future studies)?

Section III: How will your project build translational global infectious diseases research at UVM? (max 0.5 page)

- How does the project relate to the TGIR COBRE as a whole?
- How will your project use the MPC (Mathematical and Computational Modeling) and/or HPR (Human and Population Research) cores?
- If successful, how will your project lead to external grant funding?

Formatting

- 11-point font or larger using Arial or Times New Roman
- $\geq \frac{1}{2}$ inch margins all around
- single line spacing with standard character spacing

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Letters of Support

Letters of support are not expected but may be requested during the review period to support feasibility of the proposed research.

Budget Considerations

Allowable expenses

- Salary & fringe benefits for any study personnel, including PI. If graduate students will be supported, tuition must be requested per academic college rates. Refer to SPA guidelines for budgeting student compensation and tuition (<https://www.uvm.edu/spa/develop-budget-0>).
- Funds may be used for consumable supplies, institutional core facility user fees, animal purchase and per diems, research subject compensation and transportation, services or small laboratory equipment, and individual items may not exceed \$5,000.
- All expenses must be directly related to the proposed research.

Unallowable expenses

- Funds may not be used for general office supplies, equipment \geq \$5,000, computers and laptops, or rent.
- Due to travel restrictions currently in place at UVM because of the pandemic, travel costs are not allowed at this time.

Questions and Submission of Application

Applications should be emailed to eileen.caffry@med.uvm.edu by 5:00pm EST on the deadline, December 18, 2020.

All components of the application should be emailed as a single PDF file. If large files (>10MB) are necessary, please email using the UVM file transfer service. <https://filetransfer.uvm.edu/>

For administrative and budget questions, email to: eileen.caffry@med.uvm.edu

For scientific questions and details about TGIR and Cores, email to: sean.diehl@med.uvm.edu

Evaluation of Applications

- All applications will be reviewed by the TGIR investigator review panel.
- Applications and preliminary scores will be submitted to the TGIR external advisory board for review and final decisions.
- Awardees will be notified in early February 2021.
- Earliest start date to be determined pending NIH acknowledgment of pilot project.

Additional Information required from the applications selected for funding

If selected for funding, additional documentation will be required for pilot projects involving human subjects or vertebrate animals, including protocol approvals and CITI training certificates as applicable, prior to the release of any funds.