Foods for Health (FFH) Discovery Theme Seed Grants

The FFH Seed Grant Competition is a university-wide initiative with a primary goal of advancing the use of metabolomics-based technology in food and nutrition research for the improvement of health. Successful proposals will focus on food and nutritional metabolomics, are innovative, collaborative, create value, result in presentations at professional meetings and peer-reviewed publications, and catalyze the submission of competitive extramural grants.

Dates:
- RFP announced: October 17, 2017
- Proposal deadline: January 8, 2018
- Award notice: March 09, 2018
- Earliest start: March 19, 2018
- Midterm report due: 6 months after Official Start Date
- Final report: 12 months after Official Start Date

Budget: As many as five proposals will be awarded with a maximum of $25,000 per award for direct costs during a 12-month project period. No faculty salaries, fringe benefits or capital equipment (>$2,500 purchase price) will be supported. Travel essential for research is permitted, whereas travel expenses for professional meetings is not. Funds will be available for a 12-month project period with earliest starting date of March 19, 2018. Award funds will be incrementally transferred to the PI’s unit to initiate the investigation (60%) and after receipt of an acceptable progress report at 6 months (40%).

Eligibility:
- One tenure track member of the faculty will serve as principal investigator (PI) along with one or more collaborating Co-PI(s). A minimum of one co-PI must be from a different department than the PI.
- PI recipients of previous FFH Seed Grant Awards are not eligible to serve as PI for the 2018 competition. However, there is no restriction on the number of proposals for which an individual may serve as co-PI.
- Co-PIs may include OSU faculty, research scientists and post-doctoral researchers.
- New collaboration distinct from ongoing activities.

What is Metabolomics? Metabolomics refers to the systematic identification and quantification of small molecules and their metabolic products (the set of metabolites, or metabolome) of a biological system (cell, tissue, organ, biological fluid or organism) at a specific point in time. Mass Spectrometry and NMR Spectroscopy are the techniques most often used for profiling the metabolome. As metabolomics denotes the study of a multitude of metabolites, projects that require the analysis of limited group of metabolites will not be reviewed.

Metabolomics Inventory: A list of laboratories with metabolomics capabilities at OSU and the NIH Metabolomics Centers is available at [http://discovery.osu.edu/focus-areas/foods-for-health/resources.html](http://discovery.osu.edu/focus-areas/foods-for-health/resources.html).

Special Priority Areas: Priority will be given to collaborative proposals that use metabolomics for investigations addressing questions focused on the food-nutrition-health axis. The following areas are of particular interest: 1) integration of metabolomics with other -omics technologies (e.g. genomics, epigenomics, metagenomics, transcriptomics, metatranscriptomics, proteomics); 2) combined MS and NMR approaches for metabolomics analyses; 3) the influence of food and diet on the microbiome and the production of microbial metabolites that modulate physiological activities.

Matching Funds and Cost Sharing: Matching funds are not required, but will be viewed favorably.

Reviewer Scoresheet: Proposals will be peer-reviewed using these criteria:
- 50 Significant and innovative project that advances metabolomics profiling
- 40 Well-conceived aims that address specific hypothesis with the proposed budget
- 10 Plan and timeline for extramural funding is feasible
To apply: Submit the following to ffh@osu.edu by January 8, 2018 by 5PM. Please watch for confirmation that your proposal was received. All documents should be letter-sized pages, 12-point font, single-spaced, with 1-inch margins, in Word or PDF format. Confidentiality: Please indicate trade secret or confidential material in red-colored text with all other text in black. Red text will not appear in reports, not be copied and not sent to anyone other than the FFH Executive Committee and staff.

Three-page core proposal: Items 2-9 below are limited to a maximum of three pages.

1. Cover page with title of the proposal and listing of PI and collaborator(s) names, email, phone, academic units and colleges. Please also include the signatures of all investigators as well as research staff in analytical cores involved in the planned project to ensure commitment of all listed individuals.
2. Lay Summary (50 word maximum) which is a brief description of the proposed work and its potential impact written for general audiences.
3. Scientific Abstract (250 word maximum)
4. Background and Hypothesis
5. Justification
   a. How does the work contribute to the mission of the Foods for Health DT (i.e. to create a healthier future for individuals and populations through the application of scientific approaches integrating foods and nutrition, metabolomics, and health)?
   b. What is novel and innovative about the project?
   c. Does the research have demonstrable expertise to successfully complete the proposed investigation?
   d. How is this work distinct from other internally and externally funded projects of the members of the research team?
6. Preliminary data, if available, methods, anticipated difficulties and predicted results
7. Timeline and Deliverables
8. Responsibilities of each member of the team and plan for project management
9. Strategies for securing external support indicating specific programs, grants, or sponsors
10. Cited references (not included in 3 page limit)

Budget: (one page maximum) Matching or cost share is not required, but should be clearly indicated in the budget if available.
   • Itemize and justify costs via footnotes or budget narrative
   • Clearly outline distribution of funds for each listed collaborator
   • Please describe how cost per sample in your proposed studies was determined. A supporting letter from director of lab that will perform metabolomics analysis and/or necessary informatics is required should the individual not be the PI.

Note for Resubmissions: Resubmissions may include a supplementary ½ page narrative, in addition to the revised proposal, in response to summary comments forwarded from previous seed grant competitions

Appendices: Biosketches and current and pending support for all team members. Please follow NIH, NSF or USDA style.

Submission: Please combine the cover page, proposal core, budget page and supplementary page(s), as appropriate, into a single Word or PDF file.

Awardee Responsibilities: All research must comply with the regulations of IRB, IACUC and EHS. A midterm report and final report of results and plans for continued funding are due at 6-months and 12-months after official start date, respectively. These reports are required for investigators to qualify for future competitions; inadequate reports or failure to provide results for funded aims will jeopardize consideration for future awards. If funds are awarded, recipients must acknowledge support from the OSU Foods for Health Discovery Theme in publications, abstracts and oral and poster presentations. Desired outcomes of these seed grants include successful extramural grant applications, publications, dissertations, new collaborations and presentations at professional meetings.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Laura VanArsdale at (614) 292-9193 or ffh@osu.edu. To learn more about metabolomics and our scientific mission please visit: http://discovery.osu.edu/ffh