TRANS DISCIPLINARY TEAM GRANTS

Jointly Sponsored by
Public Health Preparedness in Infectious Disease (PHPID)
&
Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease

Request for Proposals

I. Summary:
- Several awards are anticipated; maximum award of $50,000 per year for 2 years
- Grant proposals should address one or more of the following strategic areas:
  - Antimicrobial resistance and drug discovery
  - Treatment and prevention of RNA virus infections
  - Host response to pathogens and local microbial communities
  - Ecology of pathogen emergence
- Funds are to be used for activities that will facilitate accelerated submission of competitive extramural grant application(s)
- PHPID/Discovery Themes combined will contribute 70% of the requested funds. The remaining 30% will be a required cost-share provided by the unit(s) involved in the proposal based along participation lines.
- Proposals are due Tuesday, March 15, 2016.
- Funded awards to start May 1, 2016.
 [Please note that since the new Transdisciplinary Team Grants are just now being launched, they are not in sync with other PHPID grants scheduled for FY2016.]

II. About the PHPID and the Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease:
The mission of the PHPID is to protect public health by minimizing animal to human, environmental, and food-borne infectious disease threats through innovative interdisciplinary research. This will be achieved through a program of research excellence that is broad in scope, encompassing the full range of relevant sciences from the laboratory bench to the community. We embrace the interdisciplinary nature of the program, recognizing that breakthroughs will likely emerge at the interface of scientific disciplines. Accordingly, this program draws strength from both the diversity of academic programs that underlie it, as well as a unifying focus and direction related to public health preparedness in infectious diseases.

The Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease is a recent investment by the university to engage faculty as transdisciplinary teams to address critical infectious disease challenges of global impact. Using the broad framework of PHPID and building upon the strengths of existing university centers and programs, our Discovery Themes investment is an opportunity to enhance the function of these research networks, focusing on four programmatic areas (see strategic areas above).
III. About New Joint Grants Program
The PHPID Program has a strong history of implementing a successful grants program, which include the New Investigator Grant (NIG), Strategic Area Grant (SAG), and Program Grant (PG). The Transdisciplinary Team Grant (TTG) is a new grant jointly sponsored by PHPID and the Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease. The overall goal of the investment plan is to provide a mechanism by which the strategic areas of emphasis can grow and flourish, ultimately enabling the development of a more robust extramural grant portfolio for infectious disease research at Ohio State. The money provided should be thought of as a “venture capital initiative,” invested for the purposes of growth and return on investment. Therefore, it is important for investigators wishing to apply for these funds to understand the implications of this underlying concept and to provide sufficient rationale and evidence for the strong probability of success in near-future funding applications and that such funding will benefit the efforts of both the PHPID and Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease programs.

IV. TRANSDISCIPLINARY TEAM GRANTS (TTG) OVERVIEW:

**TTG Objective:** To support faculty and staff in strengthening transdisciplinary research networks across the university so that they can become more competitive in addressing complex research challenges in infectious disease.

**Proposal Requirements:**
1. **Strategic areas:** Proposals should address one or more of the following strategic areas in infectious disease research:
   a. Antimicrobial resistance and drug discovery
   b. Treatment and prevention of RNA virus infections
   c. Host response to pathogens and local microbial communities
   d. Ecology of pathogen emergence
2. **Research Types:** Proposals for research ranging from fundamental science to preclinical studies are appropriate for submission.
3. **Teams:** Composition of proposed teams should be transdisciplinary and represent at least two university centers, programs, colleges or offices, unless one of the team members is a new Discovery Themes faculty hire. The composition of the proposed project team should be well-aligned with the scope of the proposed work. For instance, a plan for preclinical drug discovery might include team members from the Drug Development Institute (DDI), the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) or other university centers, the Technology Commercialization Office (TCO) the Industry Liaison Office (ILO).
4. **ROI:** Plans for acquiring future external funding should be addressed. For instance, there should be a realistic expectation of return on investment in the form of near future research funding (competitive grants to be submitted) and/or patent applications.
5. **Cost-share:** Cost-sharing from the respective units/departments will be required. The PHPID and Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease programs will collectively contribute 70% of the cash funds, and college/departmental cash funds will be required to provide
the remaining 30%. The division of cost share among units will be applied according to identified percent effort of investigators committed to the project. Funding contributions will be applied each year toward the awards. Funding to grant recipients is anticipated to occur in March 2016. All colleges involved in the proposal must sign off on the cost share agreement prior to submission. It is important to receive clarity regarding your eligibility for these awards and pre-approval of the cost share contribution (e.g. chair, dean, or center director as appropriate). All applicants must also demonstrate sufficient protected research time to accomplish the project, signed off by the appropriate unit administrator.

Cost-Share Example: Awarded project involves an interdisciplinary team from Colleges X, Y, and Z. The PI is in College X, supporting 60% of the total project effort. Faculty in College Y and Z are supporting 30% and 10% total project effort, respectively. Therefore:

$50,000 Total Award/year
-$35,000 Combined PHPID/Discovery Themes contribution (70% of total)
$15,000 Balance needed by Colleges as:
- $9,000 College X (60% of $15,000)
- $4,500 College Y (30% of $15,000)
- $1,500 College Z (10% of $15,000)

6. Eligibility: Only PHPID Members are eligible for funding from the grants program. (If you are interested in becoming a PHPID member, please send a request for membership via email to phpid@osu.edu.) Non-PHPID members can, however, serve as co-investigators.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Approach:** The framework and research design should be well constructed, feasible, and articulated. Limitations or potential problem areas should also be addressed.
- **Significance:** The proposed work should align with PHPID and Discovery Themes in Infectious Disease goals and missions, and address significant gaps in infectious disease research.
- **Innovation:** Specific aims and proposed work should be novel and innovative.
- **Extramural Potential:** The potential for Return on Investment (ROI) for the program in the form of subsequent extramural funding will be highly considered. Applicants should identify clear plans to apply for external grants reflecting the proposed work.
- **Team/Network Being Developed:** The unique aspects of the team/network that is being developed should be addressed. The project and project team should be collaborative and inter/trans-disciplinary. Collaborators should bring expertise and knowledge vital to the project. The demonstrated or potential productivity and quality of the investigative team will be assessed.
- **Budget:** Feasibility, scope, and magnitude of the project relative to the one-year budget will all be taken into consideration by reviewers. The budget should be realistic and appropriate.

Criteria for award funding include (1) scientific merit, (2) trajectory for success, (3) the transdisciplinary nature of projects and teams and (4) likelihood for future external funding. Priority will be given to proposals that are well-aligned with strategic areas and goals, that
are from transdisciplinary teams, and that identify a potential external source of funding with timelines for submission.

Proposals are NOT sought which:

- Are from researchers which have received NIG, SAG, or PG funding within the last 2 years
- Are simple continuations of previously-funded projects and show no new direction or new collaborations.
- Are proposals which realistically are beyond two years of support (i.e., RO1-type proposals)
- Are from investigators looking for support in areas that do not directly align with the thematic areas.
- Do not provide strong evidence of near-future extramural funding opportunities

Awardee Responsibilities:

- IACUC/IRB approval letter will be required prior to the release of award funds. If the regulatory approvals are not provided, these must be received within 60 days of the award start date. No award funds will be released until these approvals are received.
- It is the responsibility of the investigator to comply with all existing University policies and guidelines regarding the use of human subjects, animal welfare, conflict of interest, and hazardous materials. Please work with the Technology Commercialization Office (http://tco.osu.edu/) on matters pertaining to intellectual property, and please keep the PHPID and Discovery Themes leadership updated on any intellectual property developments.
- A final report describing project accomplishments and pre-proposal (white paper) documenting the external funding program which is being sought must be submitted within 30 days of the project end date. Additional details on this report will be given following award.
- Grant awardees are required to participate in PHPID and Discovery Themes research functions and will be invited to serve on intramural grant review panels and subcommittees.
- Following the completion of a grant, the PHPID and Discovery Themes leadership will request periodic updates of progress related to project (i.e. publications, extramural funding, intellectual property, patents, meeting presentations, media coverage, etc.).
- The appropriate acknowledgement language for the PHPID and Discovery Themes will be provided to the grant awardees in their decision letters.

Application Instructions
The deadline is March 15, 2016, at 5 PM eastern time. All proposals must be sent as an email attachment to phpid@osu.edu in Adobe PDF format. To ensure fairness no proposal, nor revision, will be accepted after the March 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m. deadline. Paper, fax, MS Word, WordPerfect, or other non-PDF submissions will not be accepted. The only acceptable formatting is:
• ALL PAGES should be set to standard 8.5- by 11-inch paper.
• All margins should be at least 1 inch.
• Arial font should be used, document text must be at least 11 point
• Figure legends can be no smaller than 8 point Arial font
• Line spacing no less than single spaced (6 lines per inch or 12 pt)
• Pages should be numbered at the bottom center of the page

All submittal requirements will be strictly enforced. Failure to adhere to the stipulated submission requirements and format will result in immediate disqualification from the competition. Questions regarding submission requirements can be addressed to Kat Marriott at marriott.20@osu.edu, Cathie Smith at smith.4420@osu.edu or Robyn Kroeger at Kroeger.68@osu.edu.

Proposal organization and page limits: Please number all pages (including those outside of the page limitations) and apply the following major letter headings. Page limits for each section are specified in parentheses below. Individual sections should have their own page(s) without combining or flowing any sections together. There is no separate “Specific Aims” page. No additional pages are allowed for tables, figures, or appendices.

A. Cover Page (1 page limit)
B. Project Narrative (6 page limit)
C. Budget Narrative (1 page limit).
D. Timeline and Future Plans (1 page limit).
E. References (no page limit).
F. Curriculum Vitae (up to 3 pages per investigator)
G. Current and Pending Support (for each investigator; no page limit).
H. Budget (complete supplied budget form).
I. Cost share approval letter(s) (complete supplied form)

A. Cover Page (1 page)
• Name of principal investigator
• Previously funded PHPID investigator (no/yes – year/ description)
• Identify grant program to which the proposal is being submitted (Team Grant)
• Title of proposal
• Contact information for collaborators
  Name, role on project
  College, department/division
  Faculty rank (Assistant; Associate; Professor; other)
  Telephone, email, address - PI only
  Alternative contact (i.e. administrative assistant or laboratory manager) - PI only
• Problem to be solved: What is the current gap? (250 words max)
• Abstract: brief description (maximum 250 words) of the proposed project and how it will solve the identified problem
B. PROJECT NARRATIVE (strict 6 page limit)

B.1. Objectives. A clear statement of the specific objectives/aims, including hypotheses tested, research questions addressed, and any products developed.

B.2. Team/Network Being Developed. Discuss unique aspects of the team/network that is being developed. 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 or commercialization opportunities.

B.3. Rationale and Significance. Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed research. Describe the probable end products of the study and associated significance. The current status of research, any preliminary results, and significant published work should be summarized. The innovation of the project, relationship to the PHPID and Discovery Themes, and how it differs from current projects, should also be explained.

B.4. Research Methods. Carefully articulate a description of the research design, methods, data analysis, application of results, and discussion of any limitations of the procedures.

B.5. Role of Investigators. The role of each investigator and percent time on the project. Pertinent unique expertise among investigators should be identified.

C. Budget Narrative (1 page maximum)

Provide a one page budget narrative describing equipment purchased, personnel (graduate students, post docs, technicians, etc.) needed and other expenditures. List the number of quarters any graduate student(s) will be supported. Faculty salaries and release time are not allowed.

D. Timeline and Future Plans (1 page maximum)

Applicants should provide a schedule of activities, typically presented as a timeline table or Gantt chart. Fully address plans for application to extramural funding opportunity within the 1 year time frame.

E. References

List alphabetically by first author and conform to an accepted journal format.

F. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

CVs for each investigator should be no longer than three pages, including publications. The following information should be included: education, employment and professional history, honors and awards, funding history for the past five years, and selected recent or relevant publications. NIH Biosketch forms are permissible in either the old or new formats.
G. Current and Pending Support
Include a current and pending research support form for each investigator. Include public or private support as well as the proposed project. The standard grants.gov “Current and Pending Support” form may be used.

H. Budget
Include salaries and wages, fringe benefits, equipment, materials and supplies, travel, publication costs, and tuition. Faculty salaries are not allowed. Indirect costs are not allowed. Utilize the attached Budget Form to summarize allocations.

I. Cost share approval and support
Include letters of Support and cost-share approval from associated units (required), deans, chairs, and/or mentors.

Submit application electronically in PDF form to phpid@osu.edu. Upon receipt of your application, you will receive an email confirmation. Please inquire if you do not receive this email within 24 hours.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Please direct questions to Kat Marriott, 614-688-5746 (marriott.20@osu.edu); Cathie Smith, 614-292-7437 (smith.4420@osu.edu) or Robyn Kroeger, 614-2923981 (kroeger.68@osu.edu).
## BUDGET FORM

**Approximate Start 04/01/2016**

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## Direct Costs

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COST SHARE APPROVAL AND SUPPORT

Include letters of Support and cost-share approval from associated units (required), deans, chairs, and/or mentors. Complete one form for each PI.

Describe the source and breakdown of cash cost share obligations for all parties involved here:

☐ The proposal has been reviewed, the submission is supported and all cost-share obligations for this application will be met and supported.

I am in agreement with the above stated conditions of this proposal.

Signature ________________________________________________________ Date: ____________

Department Chair/Institute Director/ TIU Chair

Signature ________________________________________________________ Date: ____________

Division Director (if applicable)

Signature ________________________________________________________ Date: ____________

Department/Institute Administrator/Fiscal Officer