

3i Request for Proposals: Team Grants on Environmental Impact on Human Health

Issued by: The Immunology, Inflammation, and Infectious Disease (3i) Initiative

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Information Session: February 19, 2025
Full Proposals Due: March 24, 2025

Purpose:

The Immunology, Inflammation, and Infectious Disease (3i) Initiative at the University of Utah aims to strengthen research areas addressing the environmental impact on human health and disease. As such, this request for proposals is to establish and support the development of new collaborative teams and provide resources to help generate preliminary data that are needed for multi-PI extramural funding applications.

This request for proposals will fund two-year \$75K pilot projects. By the end of the funding period, teams should have demonstrated progress through the production of research that will be utilized in a publication or extramural funding application (multi-PI R awards, P awards, U awards) within two years. Please see details below for a virtual information and Q&A session for this opportunity.

Research Scope:

We invite applications that are hypothesis-driven and will lead to competitive extramural grant applications from the University of Utah. Areas of interest include research endeavors that are at the crossroads of immunology, inflammation, and infectious disease and environmental impact on human health and disease.

Eligibility:

- Proposals must be a collaborative effort amongst at least **two** independent investigators from two separate laboratories at the UofU, with each contributing substantially to the scientific development and execution of the project.
- Each applicant may submit only one proposal as the primary investigator. However, applicants may participate as team members on multiple proposals, but only on one funded team.
- All primary applicants (PIs) must be at least 0.75 FTE tenure-track faculty or 0.75 FTE clinical/research faculty at the University of Utah/VA or 1.0 FTE postdoctoral research fellow/associate. (If a postdoc is the PI on the seed grant proposal, the final grant submission must be from a University of Utah PI).

Proposal Priorities:

Priority will be given to applications that:

- Have significant intellectual merit
- Include UofU clinical investigators with demonstrable partnership activities
- Have a high potential for the identified extramural funding opportunity
- Strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships within the University of Utah 3i community
- Include two or more investigators from different departments
- Allow exploration of possible innovative new directions representing a significant departure from ongoing funded research for established investigators in environmental health
- Stimulate investigators from other areas to apply their expertise to environmental health research

Application Instructions:

Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted electronically through the University of Utah's Competition Space interface at <http://utah.infoready4.com/> by March 24, 2025.

Applications must include:

1. A lay abstract for the general public (up to a ½ page). Please make sure to address the significance of the proposed project and how these funds will help future research efforts. For help with a lay abstract, see: [Dubé, C.E. & Lapane, K.L. J Canc Educ \(2014\) 29: 577. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-013-0570-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-013-0570-1)
2. A brief proposal (2 pages, plus references on additional pages as needed). Please address Significance, Innovation (include proposed role/contributions for each team member and investigator synergy), and Approach.
3. Timeline with milestones across the two years (up to ½ page).
4. A plan for extramural funding (up to a ½ page). This plan must speak to specific plans including funding mechanism/call, a group plan for the next 1-3 years, leadership plan and collaborative group meeting plan (including evidence of success for currently meeting groups).
5. Biographical sketch for each co-investigator (5 pages max).
6. Current and pending support for each co-investigator.
7. If human subjects or animal research is involved, provide one copy of the IRB or IACUC confirmation. IRB and any required IACUC approvals must be in place before funds are released, but not required for submission.
8. Proposed project budget following guidelines below. The budget should not exceed \$75K over a two-year period. Budgets should include a maximum cost of \$50K in year 1 and \$25K in year 2. Please describe in the budget document how funds will be distributed between investigators. Note: funds will be distributed from the SVPHS Research Unit to a single PI on each grant for further distribution to the rest of the collaboration. A maximum of \$50K will be distributed in year 1. Year 2 funds will be distributed after confirming sufficient progress.

Items 1-8 must be submitted as one PDF.

Budget Guidelines:

Funding is available for salaries and fringe benefits of post-doctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, supplies, grant writing support and graphic design, miscellaneous expenses, and services. Grant funds cannot be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year); travel (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant); consultants; or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified). Please prepare a one-page budget with maximum direct costs of \$75K for two years of support, with

a maximum of \$50K in year 1 and \$25K in year 2. The budget template on Competition Space (<https://utah.infoready4.com/>) is not required but may be used for this purpose.

Review and Funding of Proposals:

Proposals will be reviewed by the 3i Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and additional experts as necessary to assess innovation, scientific merit, collaboration, and alignment with the vision of the 3i. (<http://uofuhealth.utah.edu/immunology-inflammation-infectious-diseases/>). Applicants will be informed of the status of their proposal within ~2 months of the submission deadline, with funding to begin on or around July 1st, 2025, and after appropriate IRB/IACUC approvals are in place. Maximum funding per project is \$75K, with a project term of two-years. Budgets may be reduced as the SAB or 3i leadership sees fit. Unused funds must be returned to the SVPHS Research Unit after two years. No cost extensions will not be granted except under exceptional circumstances.

Reporting:

Grantees will be required to provide progress reports after year 1, at the end of the project period, and for at least the following three years. Formatting details will be provided closer to the due date of the report. Also, a presentation at either the annual symposium or an 3i Initiative seminar is expected and will be coordinated by SVPHS Research Unit administrative staff after the conclusion of the funding cycle.

Information and Q&A Session:

Wednesday, February 19 3-3:45pm

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/93961004219>

Meeting ID: 939 6100 4219

Passcode: 744253

Questions? Please contact: Bridget Hughes (bridget.hughes@hsc.utah.edu)