Overview and Key Dates*

Funding Opportunity Title	**UAB HSOM Immunology Institute Pilot Project Program**
Funding Opportunity Purpose	The UAB HSOM Immunology Institute (II) seeks applications from II members to support mechanistic and hypothesis-testing studies of the immune system.
Posted Date	August 30, 2023
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)	September 5, 2023
Application Due Date	October 25, 2023
Awards Announced	December 6 , 2023
Award Start Date	January 1, 2024
Award Budget	Applicants may request up to $50,000/year in Direct Costs for up to two years. Second year of funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress toward completion of aims in year 1.
Award Project Period	The project period will be 01/01/24 – 12/31/25; Awards will be made in two subsequent funding periods.

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Immunology research, by its very nature, is cross-disciplinary including investigations in multiple fields of study such as microbiology, infectious diseases, transplantation, oncology, pathology, rheumatology, pediatric and adult medicine and many others. This first round of funding in the II Pilot Project Program will support research that: (i) elucidates fundamental mechanisms of the immune system, (ii) discovers or characterizes ways in which the immune system may impact human health, and (iii) translates knowledge gained to drive discovery of therapies to treat and prevent disease. This pilot project program encourages investigators to propose collaborative, hypothesis-testing projects with potential to lead to submission of competitive grant applications. Proposals must include a specific focus on the immune system. For example, molecular virology studies would be considered non-responsive, however studies examining host immune responses to viral infection are within the scope of the RFA. Questions regarding whether a project falls within the broad scope of this RFA can be directed to Carol Ballinger at caball@uab.edu.

Special considerations:

Projects may not propose clinical trials, however, the use of samples obtained from human subjects in clinical trials funded through independent mechanisms is allowed.

Pilot Project funds cannot be used to support PI or Co-PI salaries or equipment purchases but may be used to support trainees and technical staff.

Projects meeting any of the following conditions are encouraged to apply:

Collaborative projects working across two or more laboratories, bringing together complimentary disciplines.

Projects that utilize II-sponsored core facilities, resources and initiatives.

Projects that will be submitted for external funding by the end of the pilot grant funding period are

Section II. Eligibility Information

Applicants must be UAB faculty and a member of the II (Click to Become a Member).

Section III. Application and Submission Information

Instructions for Application Submission

Applications are to be submitted through the online REDCap submission form. ***Chrome is the preferred browser for the REDCap submission form***. Please note that instructions for completing the form and returning to it at a later date (before submission) are contained with the form's 'Instructions' section.

Be prepared to provide the following:

- ❖ Project Lead name, degree(s), school, department/division, academic rank, email, phone number
- ❖ Co-Leads' / Co-Investigators' name, degree(s), school, department/division, academic rank, email, phone number
- ❖ Project Title
- ❖ Human Subjects Research - Is IRB approval required?
- ❖ Animal Models Research - Is IACUC approval required?

Proposal

Upload completed proposal as a **single PDF.**

Formatting requirements: **Font:** Arial 11 point (smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable); **Line spacing:** Single-line spacing; **Margins:** At least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right); **Text color:** Black (color text in figures, graphs, charts and tables is acceptable); **Pages:** 8.5" x 11"

Proposals should include the following information:

Detailed Budget and Justification: Applicants may request ≤ $50,000/yr for up to 2 years. Requests for funding of faculty effort, equipment or travel are not allowed. External collaborations are allowed but funds cannot be used for subcontracts.

Biosketch(es): (5 page maximum/individual) Include an NIH-type biosketch for each Project Lead and Key Personnel.

Research Plan: (3 page maximum) Items that should be addressed in the research plan section include:
- Rationale (how the project will advance our fundamental understanding of the immune system and if applicable, how the research has the long-term potential to improve human health)
- Project Leader's prior work in the field of immunology, if any
- Description of the proposed work
- Clear statement of the hypothesis to be tested
- Preliminary data, if relevant
- Description of why the project is unsuitable for an R01 or other mainstream NIH grant application at this time and how completion of the project will enable submission of competitive R01 or other NIH grant application
- Feasibility of the proposed study
- Timeline showing how work will be completed within the requested time frame and budget

Figures, tables, graphs and charts may be attached on a single Appendix page NOT *included* in the 3 page limit.

References Cited: Provide a bibliography of references cited in the Research Plan; include names of all authors, article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. References *are NOT included* in the 3 page limit of the Research Plan.

Human Subjects section: description and justification of human subjects research, if relevant.

Vertebrate Animals section: description and justification of vertebrate animal research, if relevant.

Section IV. Award Administration Information

Regulatory Approvals

All lines of investigation supported by this funding mechanism require appropriate regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, OHS, as applicable). IRB and IACUC protocols should be submitted to institutional research administration offices at the time of submission. Required approvals MUST be obtained prior to start of funding. These approvals must be in place in advance of human subjects and/or animal and/or select agents work and must remain in good standing throughout the study funding period.

Section V. Agency Contacts

Application Submission Contacts

CCTS Research Commons

Center for Clinical and Translational Science
O: 205.934.7442
ccts@uab.edu

Scientific / Research Contact

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