The Penn Vet Institute for Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (IIZD) is announcing a Request for Applications (RFA) for projects of up to $50,000 each. Clinical, applied, and basic science laboratories throughout the University are invited to submit proposals for research projects that focus on infectious diseases, including those caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi, prions or co-infections. Proposals must include a PI that is a faculty member at Penn Vet. Proposals are due by January 15th and must be no more than 2 pages in length.

Projects involving collaborations across schools, or that bridge basic and applied or clinical research programs are encouraged. A diverse range of methodological approaches will be considered responsive to this RFA, including but not limited to: 1) single cell and spatial transcriptomics; 2) microbiome/metagenome approaches; 3) computational methods such as disease modeling, GIS/database methods, or novel visualization tools. Projects using mouse models of infections are eligible, however investigators working on non-model organisms or wildlife are also encouraged to apply. Eligible projects must be completed within one year from the time funds are awarded.

RFA FAQs

What is the anticipated size and number of awards available through this RFA?
- We anticipate funding a total of 3-5 projects at up to $50,000 per project.

When will awards be made and what is the duration of the award?
- Anticipated start date is early March, 2024. Projects must be completed within 1 year of receiving funds.

Who can apply?
- The PI or Co-PI must be a Penn Vet Assistant, Associate or Full professor in the Tenure-track, Clinician Educator track, or Research Track.

How should I format my proposal?
- Applications are limited to 2 pages, which must include: project title, background and hypothesis, methods, and discussion of how data generated would be used in future extramural applications for funding.
- Additionally required, but not considered as part of the 2 page limit, are the following: references (limit to 1 page), a list of scientific/technical personnel and their role in the project, a line-item budget detailing reagents, equipment and personnel expenses, and an NIH-style biosketch for each PI/Co-PI.

When and where do I submit my proposal?
- Applications must be submitted as a single PDF via email to blacknic@upenn.edu by Jan 15th, 2024.

Can I submit a proposal for this RFA if I already submitted a similar or identical one to the UPenn Fall University Research Foundation (URF)?
- Yes! We welcome submissions that are also under consideration by URF or other pilot programs on campus. If you receive funding from these other programs, your proposal will not be fully funded through this RFA.

How will proposals be evaluated?
- Applications will be reviewed by a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), composed of faculty residing both within and outside of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Proposals will be evaluated based on: 1) technical feasibility; 2) scientific merit, and 3) innovation.