



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
Translational Immunology and  
Infectious Disease Institute

## Fall 2021 Request for Applications

**Stage I Abstract Deadline – November 30, 2021**

**Stage II Abstract Deadline – January 14, 2021**

### **Purpose**

To foster innovative new ideas and team driven multidisciplinary translational research projects related to infectious disease and immunology.

### **Background**

The ultimate goal of the TIIDI is to take the knowledge gained from basic research in immunology, microbiology, and virology and apply it to problems in human diseases caused by infectious pathogens. This pilot program supports clinical and translational research to understand the etiology and impact of viral, bacterial, and fungal pathogens, the immune responses to them, and to develop and evaluate knowledge-based strategies for their control, treatment, and prevention. Multidisciplinary, team-science approaches to critical issues in infectious diseases are essential to this mission.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be full time tenure or research track faculty at the University of Rochester.

Projects that involve multiple faculty from one or more departments will have priority. Projects must demonstrate the potential to lead to extramural funding (federal, state, or foundational).

### **Awards**

Up to three (3) awards will be made for up to \$33,000 for one year in direct costs. Indirect costs are not allowed.

### **Application Process**

The application process will take place in 2 stages. Stage 1 requires submission of a 1-page abstract of the proposed project. The abstract should describe the goals and objectives of the proposed project, the relevance to translational immunology and infectious disease, and the investigators involved (there is no form template for the abstract portion). It is critical that research ideas are expressed in such a way that the reviewer can understand the ideas and appreciate their significance and potential impact. Abstracts will be reviewed and those applicants selected to submit full applications will be contacted shortly thereafter. Please submit your abstracts to Stefanie Fingler, [Stefanie\\_Fingler@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Stefanie_Fingler@urmc.rochester.edu), before or on **November 30, 2021, by 5 PM EST**.

Abstracts selected for Phase II, will be notified on **December 17, 2021**, and will be requested to submit a full application. Phase II applications are to be submitted to Stefanie Fingler, [Stefanie\\_Fingler@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Stefanie_Fingler@urmc.rochester.edu), before or on **January 14, 2021 by 5 PM EST**. Applications should be submitted as a single pdf as an attachment.

## Application Requirements:

- TIIDI Proposal sign-off form (Form provided)
- Modified PHS 398 face page (Form provided)
- Abstract
- NIH-format biosketch for PI, co-investigators and mentors
- Updated Other Support for PI or co-PI only
- Research Plan (limited to 3 pages):

*The Research Plan consists of items noted below, as applicable. It should be self-contained and include sufficient information to evaluate the project, independent of any other document (e.g., previous application). Be specific and informative, and avoid redundancies.*

- Specific Aims
- Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation and Approach)
- Timeline
  
- Human Subjects and Animals (no limit): *The Human Subjects and Animals Plan consists of items noted below, as applicable.*
  - Protection of Human Subjects
  - Vertebrate Animals
  
- Plans for Future Funding (short paragraph):
  - Provide a short outline of how the pilot will develop into a NIH or otherwise funded grant.
  
- Budget (PHS 398 Form provided)
  - Limited to **\$33,000** direct costs
  - Provide a detailed description of supplies and other expenses within the form page
  - Unless exceptional circumstances, funds may not be used to support faculty salary but the budget must identify the proposed effort.
  - Funds may not be used for travel to professional meetings or equipment.
  - Funds may be used to support research supplies and expenses, travel to collect data and other nonfaculty salary.
  - If applicable, identify other sources of support that will be used to complete the pilot project.
  
- Bibliography

## Submission and Review Process

This is an internal competition for Institutional-funds. *ORPA review and sign-off is not required but departmental review and approval should be sought through the TIIDI sign-off form.*

Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee and will be assigned a priority score in accordance with these 6 categories:

- Significance (including scientific premise and hypothesis)
- PI, Scientific Team & Environment
- Innovation and Multidisciplinary Approach
- Experimental Approach
- Responsiveness to the terms of this RFA
- Probability of future NIH or other extramural funding

A summary of the reviewers' comments will be provided once the review process has been completed.

## **Award Process**

TIIDI will notify selected investigators via email by **January 31, 2021**. Funding will not be released until all UR and NIH regulatory requirements have been met including IRB, IBC and UCAR) (IACUC) approvals as applicable. Upon receipt of all required documentation, the TIIDI will issue a formal internal Notice of Award.

## **Reporting Requirements**

A semi-annual report 6 months after the project begins is required. The report should describe the progress made and note any delays or threats to the project. At one year, an annual or final report is required also describing the progress made and note any delays or threats to completion of the project. If more time is needed to reach the project objectives, a justification for a no cost extension should be provided with a revised time line. Final reports must include the following:

- Status of the work supported by pilot grant
- Statement regarding resulting grant applications, publications, presentations and inventions
- Update regarding plans for future funding resulting from the project

Should the PI's publish papers or receive an NIH or other grant related to the pilot after the final report is issued, TIIDI would appreciate being notified. The pilot PI will be required to give an oral presentation of their findings at the end of the project period. A final written progress report will also be required, which must include the following:

- Status of the work supported by pilot grant
- Statement regarding resulting grant applications, publications, presentations and inventions
- Update regarding plans for future funding resulting from the project

## **Inquiries:**

David Topham, Founding Director

Email: [David\\_Topham@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:David_Topham@urmc.rochester.edu)

Stefanie Fingler, Research Program Manager

P: 275-9297

Email: [Stefanie\\_Fingler@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Stefanie_Fingler@urmc.rochester.edu)

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/translational-immunology-infectious-diseases.aspx>