

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
Basic Science Research Facilitation Award

Pre-Application Workshop: Noon, March 16, 2010
Application Receipt Date: Noon, April 8, 2010

A. Background: The inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), also known as Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, are idiopathic chronic inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract with no known medical cures. These diseases strike relatively youthful individuals in the prime of productive life. There is a familial or genetic predisposition found in about 20% of individuals affected. Possible pathophysiologic etiologies include defects in host immunity/intestinal barrier function, infectious or environmental triggers and compromised tissue healing. Research is hampered by the lack of an ideal animal model, thus basic science studies utilizing human tissue including gastrointestinal mucosa, leukocytes and DNA currently offer the most promise for discoveries of relevance to human disease. This RFA invites research grant applications proposing studies of fundamental mechanisms involved in the etiology and pathogenesis of IBD, particularly in the areas of immunology, genetics, signal transduction and biochemical determinants of disease status.

B. Eligibility Criteria:

1. The Principal Investigator (PI) of an IBD application must have research expertise in an appropriate area of the basic biomedical sciences and be a faculty member with a primary academic appointment in either a basic science or clinical department of the College of Medicine (COM) or any other academic unit of Penn State University.
2. The PI may be either a junior investigator or a more senior investigator proposing to initiate a new line of investigation that will apply his or her scientific expertise to IBD.
3. Applicants to the IBD program may also be eligible to apply for and receive other competitive institutional research support provided that they meet the eligibility criteria for these other programs and that there is no scientific overlap between projects.
4. Investigators who are currently serving as the PI of an active IBD award are not eligible to submit an application in response to this RFA.

C. Program Guidelines:

1. Applications to the IBD program may request up to \$30,000 (direct costs) per year for up to two years; however, funding for the second year will require demonstration of satisfactory progress during the first year.
2. The award can be used for supplies, equipment, technical assistance, and to support up to 10% effort for postdoctoral fellows and faculty members with fixed-term appointments.

3. Departmental cost sharing will be required for the related salary and fringe benefits of any tenured/tenure-track faculty members and for any additional resources that may be needed to ensure the successful completion of the project. Institutional resources will be used to defray the indirect costs associated with these awards.
4. Although no minimum percent effort is required for the Principal Investigator, the effort that the PI and others plan to devote to the project must be specified in the application. When obtaining departmental commitments, investigators, especially those requiring more than 5% of his or her time for the proposed project, should discuss the allocation of any proposed “unfunded effort” with the department chair in light of the faculty member’s plans for conduct and continuation of the work, and the resources available in the department.
5. It is expected that IBD Research Facilitation Awards will result in preliminary data to be used in applications to external research sponsors.
6. PIs of funded IBD Research Facilitation Awards must agree to submit an interim progress report as provided below in Section G, a final progress report, and a copy of any publication(s) resulting from the project to Walter Koltun, M.D., Chief, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, COM.

D. Collaboration with Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery: Upon request, faculty members in the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, COM, will collaborate in the recruitment of human subjects with IBD for tissue/blood donation in studies proposed by the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that would utilize the Section’s IBD Registry that includes approximately 400 familial cell lines, 200 control cell lines and a group of cells from IBD patients with cancer as well as sporadic IBD. Specific information regarding the details of the IBD Registry is available by calling Chief, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, COM at 717-531-5164.

E. Workshop for Applicants:

1. Investigators who are considering the submission of an application to this program should attend the IBD Applicant videoconference **Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at Noon** (location at the College of Medicine and at University Park, TBD). At the workshop, the requirements of the RFA will be reviewed, the specific Instructions for Applicants will be distributed, and the expectations of the Scientific Review Committee will be discussed.
2. **To register** for the workshop, prospective applicants should email the names of the PI and any collaborator(s), their departments and campuses, as well as the anticipated title of the application to researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu by Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

F. Application Process: Applicants must follow the *Instructions for Applicants* that will be distributed and discussed at the above-referenced Workshop. **The deadline for submission of applications is Noon, April, 8, 2010.**

G. Review Process:

1. Applications will undergo an initial review for scientific and technical merit by the College of Medicine Scientific Review Committee (SRC) that will consider the responsiveness of the

proposal to this RFA, the scientific and technical merit of the proposal, and the potential for the project to subsequently attract independent support from NIH or other external sponsors.

2. Evaluation of scientific and technical merit will include the following criteria: Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment.

3. In addition, the SRC will be asked to identify changes in study design and methodology that would strengthen each proposal and these recommendations will be returned to the applicant with the reviewers' critiques at the conclusion of the review process.

4. The SRC will make its recommendations through the Director, Research Development to the Chief, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, COM, who will make all final decisions regarding awards.

5. PIs of projects funded in response to this RFA will be required to submit a Progress Report by April 15, 2011 for review by the SRC and the Chief, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, COM. Funding for the second year of the award will be contingent on the outcome of this progress review.

H. Awards: Contingent on the receipt of meritorious applications, it is anticipated that one grant award will be made on or about July 1, 2010 in response to this RFA.

I. Additional Information: Any questions regarding this RFA should be referred to Research Development (Email researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu; Phone 717-531-6949).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases *Basic Science Research Facilitation Award*

2010 APPLICATIONS MUST FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:

- 1. Page Format:** All pages of the application should have 1” margins all around and use Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface and a font size of 11 points or larger. Number all pages consecutively beginning with the Face Page.
- 2. Face Page** titled "New or Revised Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Grant Application" including a descriptive title of the project and the name, department, signature of both the Principal Investigator and all Co-Investigator(s), their contact information (email and phone), and the funding amount requested in the application.
- 3. Table of Contents:** Number all pages consecutively and include a short *Table of Contents*
- 4. Abstract:** Briefly summarize the objective, specific aims and health-relatedness of the project in terms that will be understood by a **non-scientific lay audience**.
- 5. Introduction:** For “revised” applications only to address previous reviewer comments (1 Page).
- 6. Research Plan: In the Research Plan, items a thru f below** should not exceed **10 pages double-spaced** including figures and tables, using Arial-11, Helvetica-11 or equivalent type and should be organized as follows:
 - a. **Specific Aims-** List the specific aims of this proposal and explain how their accomplishment will help achieve the overall program goal(s);
 - b. **Significance-** Explain how this specific proposal addresses an important problem or clinical barrier;
 - c. **Investigator(s)-** Describe the contributions that the PI and any co-investigators will make to this project. If the PI is a senior investigator, describe how this project represents a new line of investigation that will apply his or her scientific expertise to IBD;
 - d. **Innovation-** How does the proposal challenge or shift existing paradigms? Specifically highlight any novel concepts, approaches, methods, or instrumentation;
 - e. **Approach-** Describe the proposed experimental design, preliminary studies, and anticipated results;
 - f. **Environment-** Describe the research facilities and resources that will be available for the proposed project;
 - g. **Human Subjects** - describe involvement, if any;
 - h. **Vertebrate Animals** - describe involvement, if any; and
 - i. **Literature Cited**

7. Budget – Use the budget form on the Research Development Website <http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home> and include a budget justification page. Include the budget for year 1 and year 2 of the project.

8. Biographical Sketch of Principal Investigator and all collaborators. Use **PHS 398 (new) Biographical Sketch forms** that are on the Research Development website, along with the instructions, at: <http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home> ***Address any scientific or budgetary overlap in the research support section.***

9. Attachments: Attach letters from the Department Chair(s) of the PI and any Co-investigator(s) to document the percent effort that they will have available for this project and any additional commitment of other departmental resources. If the application is subsequently recommended for funding, the Chair(s) will need to identify the budget and fund numbers that will be used to support any unfunded faculty effort committed to the project. If the research proposed requires the use of facilities or other resources that are under the purview of another investigator, include a letter from that individual to document the availability of those resources for use in the proposed research. ***No additional attachments will be permitted.***

On or before Noon, April 8, 2010 applicants should: a) submit an electronic Adobe version (.PDF) of the application **in one file string** via email to researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu, and b) submit four (4) hard copies of the application to Research Development, Room C1630 at COM or mail hard copies to Research Development, H138, Penn State College of Medicine, 500 University Dr., Hershey, PA 17033. Questions should be directed to Research Development at researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu or 717-531-6949.