

PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED IMMUNE BIOIMAGING

University of Rochester Medical Center

Center for Vaccine Biology & Immunology (CVBI)

(<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/labs/program-advanced-immune-bioimaging.aspx>)

Fall 2022 Request for Applications

Phase I ABSTRACT DEADLINE: October 15, 2022 by 5 PM EST

Phase II APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 30, 2022 by 5 PM EST

Purpose

To support a broad range of highly innovative research projects and pilot studies to address key gaps in our understanding of the cellular dynamics of inflammatory disease and the regulation of immune function.

Background

The goal of this pilot project is to bring together scientific expertise in real-time imaging, cell:cell interactions, migration and effector function to address fundamental immune cell processes in tissues using cutting-edge imaging approaches, such as intra-vital.

Eligibility

- (1) University of Rochester OR Cornell University Faculty, Including Instructor, Senior Instructor, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors or Full Professors.
- (2) Successful projects will have a collaborative component with one of the existing Program faculty (Drs. Deborah Fowell, Minsoo Kim, David Topham, Jim Miller, Patrick Oakes, Nozomi Nishimura).

Projects will receive the highest priority if they:

- Have strong potential for follow up funding by national, state or private agencies
- Are interdisciplinary and create new collaborations involving multiple departments
- Propose research that includes,
 - (1) **novel in vivo imaging techniques**
 - (2) **computational imaging processing**
 - (3) **systematic genome-wide screens**
 - (3) **single cell transcriptomics**
 - (4) **image-based spatial transcriptomics or proteomics**

Awards

Up to **2 awards** will be made for a one-year period with maximum funding of **\$40,000** in Direct Costs. Indirect Costs are not allowable.

Phase I Abstract

Initial applications should include a one-page abstract describing the goals and objectives of the proposed project, the relevance to the mission of the P01, 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 a non-expert can understand the ideas and appreciate their significance and potential impact. Additionally, funds may only be spent between **January 1, 2023** and **December 31, 2023**, so awardees must commit to completing the specific aims of the project within the allowed one-year time period. Abstracts will be reviewed, and those applicants selected to submit full applications will be contacted shortly thereafter. Please submit your abstracts to Emily Billotti, Emily_Billotti@URMC.Rochester.edu, before or on **October 15, 2022, by 5 PM EST.**

Phase II Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted to Emily Billotti, Emily_Billotti@URMC.Rochester.edu, before or on **November 30, 2022, by 5 PM EST.** Applicants are encouraged to submit electronically as an attachment in pdf format

Application Requirements:

- ☐ CVBI 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 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. 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.
 - 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-funded grant.
- ☐ Budget (PHS 398 Form provided)
 - Limited to **\$40,000** 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 already awarded to support the NIH Program Project. **ORPA review and sign-off is not required but departmental review and approval should be sought through the CVBI sign-off form.**

Proposals will be reviewed by a UPMC 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 (including methods and authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources, if applicable)
- Responsiveness to the terms of this RFA
- Probability of future NIH funding

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

Award Process

CVBI will notify selected investigators via email by **December 16, 2022**. Funding will not be released until all UR and NIH regulatory requirements have been met including IRB, IBC and IACUC approvals as applicable. Upon receipt of all required documentation, the CVBI will issue a formal internal Notice of Award.

Reporting Requirements

The pilot PI will be required to attend monthly P01 meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm. NOTE Cornell Faculty will be provided remote access to the monthly meetings.

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:

P01 Lead Investigators – [Deborah Fowell and Minsoo Kim](#)

Administrator – [Emily Billotti](#)

P: 585-275-9297

F: 585- 273-2452

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