Request for Applications (RFA)

Biomedical Innovation Program
Drug Discovery/Therapeutics Track

This funding is intended to support translational drug discovery research & development efforts.

KEY DATES

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) and the Office of Technology Transfer and Business Development (TTBD) are now accepting letters of intent for the Biomedical Innovation Program funding for drug discovery platforms and therapeutic technology projects. Examples of responsive application topics include but are not limited to development and validation of drug targets, screening platforms, small molecules, antibodies, vaccines, and biologics. Through this funding mechanism, OCTRI and TTBD intend to support and accelerate creative, interdisciplinary drug discovery and therapeutic development research at OHSU. Project budgets should not exceed $60,000. Projects will typically be supported for a one-year period; predetermined milestones and quantitative metrics of success will be evaluated on a regular basis.

This funding mechanism is supported by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research and is offered in partnership with the School of Medicine’s Research Roadmap. It is open to all OHSU faculty and qualified employees who meet eligibility guidelines.

The BIP Drug Discovery/Therapeutics track offers tailored and dedicated project management. The involvement of BIP staff is a crucial part of success for the early-stage projects that are targeted by this particular funding mechanism. The project management staff monitor progress, identify and mitigate barriers to success, and provide access to mentors and experts that can help move the project forward.
APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

Proposal submission is a three-stage process:

1. Submit a letter of intent (LOI) that is no more than 2 pages long. Letters of support are encouraged and do not count toward the page limit. Prior to submitting your LOI, please submit a Technology Disclosure Form to TTBD.
2. Projects selected by the Review Committee will be asked to submit a full application.
3. A small group of finalists will be invited to present to the Review Committee, after which, final funding decisions will be made.

All letters of intent and full applications are treated as confidential documents. Confidentiality agreements are in place with all members of the review committee.

REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Leverage Pilot Funding: How will this funding move the technology to the next phase of development?
2. Impact to Human Health: Does the proposed work aim to solve an important problem or remove a critical barrier to progress in the field? How will the project move the technology closer to benefiting human health?
3. Commercial Potential: What is the market need (number of patients likely affected, expected savings in health care/societal expenditures, etc.)? How many potential applications or products could come from the proposed technology?
4. Project Design and Feasibility: Is the proposed work feasible? What types of expertise will be leveraged to move the technology forward? What are the potential barriers, and what is the plan to overcome them?
5. Patentability: Is the technology novel, useful, non-obvious, and enabled?
6. Commercialization Path: What is the commercialization strategy and path(s) to secure additional funding? Are there target entities identified as potential partners or licensees? Is there interest and potential for creating a start-up?

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The LOI should include a discussion of the following topics:

1. Preliminary data and background. Describe the unmet need that your proposed technology/work intends to address.
2. Brief description of proposed work. How will this work move your technology closer to addressing the unmet need?
3. Summarized timeline for the project, including development milestones. Describe a strategy for pursuing additional funding.
4. A gross estimate of the direct R&D costs for study personnel, minor equipment, and supplies (do not include the university overhead) for the award period.
5. Identification of and comparison to similar solutions on the market. Include market data. Why is your technology better than the current standard?
6. The intellectual property status of your proposed technology. Please include brief preliminary patentability information in your letter of intent. Please contact TTBD well in advance of any deadline to assist with this information and analysis.

Reminders:

- Please limit LOIs to 2 pages. Letters of support are encouraged and do not count toward the 2-page limit.
- Prior to submitting your letter of intent, please submit a Technology Disclosure Form (note: a Technology Disclosure Form will need to be submitted to TTBD before any intellectual property analysis can be conducted).

Submit your LOI via RedCap by clicking here: https://octri.ohsu.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=NRP79KXT83

**FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Instructions and a link to an online application form will be provided to those applicants who are invited to submit full applications. Biosketches are required and letters of support are encouraged, and do not count toward the 5-page limit. The proposal should build on the LOI and must include a complete discussion of the following items **(5-page maximum)**:

1. The unmet or poorly met clinical need or disease, including the current approaches for assessment or treatment of your chosen clinical problem and the known shortcomings of those approaches.
2. The clinical relevancy and market need for the proposed research, including the market metrics for your proposed drug or therapeutic, such as the number of patients likely affected, expected savings in health care/societal expenditures, etc.
3. A description of the proposed solution and the advantages it would have compared to current approaches.
4. The expected R&D timeline to develop the proposed drug or therapeutic.
5. Specific quarterly and yearly milestones and the plan for their achievement.
6. Intellectual property status, strategy, and future plan. Include invention disclosures, filed patent applications, IP ownership shared with others, patents awarded and/or technologies licensed, and third party existing IP related to your proposed drug or therapeutic.
7. Estimated R&D costs to achieve the complete clinical product.
8. A plan for obtaining additional sources of funding to continue developing the technology.

**PROPOSAL PRESENTATION**

Instructions and a presentation template will be provided to finalists. Each applicant will have 10 minutes to present the main points of his/her application. The brief presentation will be followed by a 15-minute question and answer period. Applicants invited to present will be required to attend at least one coaching session with BIP staff and an OHSU Entrepreneurs In Residence prior to the final presentation.
POST-AWARD PROCESSES
All award recipients will be required to submit progress reports using guidelines that will be provided at a later date.

QUESTIONS?
Please direct all questions Jonathan Jubera (jubera@ohsu.edu) or the Research Navigator program (503-418-9790, octri@ohsu.edu).