

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Research Pilot Grants – Request for Applications

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine Deans Office will provide funds to support new SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pilot research projects by our faculty designed to generate preliminary data to support new grant applications in response to current and future SARS-CoV-2 research funding opportunities issued by the NIH and/or other funding agencies.

Einstein expects to rapidly fund 3-4 applications at a maximum of \$50,000 each for 1-year awards. These funds may support institutional core and/or shared facility services, and other research costs but not equipment purchase or investigator salary support. Awardees must provide documentation of all necessary regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc.) prior to funding. Pilot project applications should address one of these three core areas of research (some sample study topics are provided):

COVID-19 Biology and Pathophysiology

- Studies to understand critical aspects of viral infection, replication, pathogenesis, and transmission
- Identification and evaluation of the protective innate, cellular and humoral immune responses to COVID-19
- Identification of factors that affect COVID-19 viral host-range and virulence

Therapeutics Development

- Clinical trial of convalescent plasma treatment
- Identification and evaluation of neutralizing antibodies molecularly cloned from convalescent patient B cells as a therapy
- Development of small molecule inhibitors of the COVID-19 replication cycle
- Developing assays for high throughput evaluation of inhibitors of COVID-19 replication inhibition

Clinical Disease/Epidemiology

- Characterization of the disease course of COVID-19 infection and mechanisms of morbidity and mortality
- Identification of genetic risk factors and biomarkers predictive for a more severe disease course
- Defining correlates of protection from reinfection by COVID-19 in patients
- Virologic and serologic surveillance studies of the distribution and natural history of COVID-19 in human populations

Application deadline: May 15, 2020

Proposal must include the following:

1. Research Summary (200 word maximum)
2. Research Proposal (2 page maximum) that includes the following sections:
 - Specific Aims
 - Background/Significance
 - Research Strategy
3. Budget and Budget Justification (not included in page limit) - Use PHS 398 Form [Page 4](#) and [Page 5](#).
4. NIH formatted biosketch for all key personnel (not included in page limit)

Submissions: Proposals should be submitted as one PDF file and emailed to Christine Anderson at christine.anderson@einsteinmed.org with the subject line "COVID-19 Research Pilot Grant Application."

Review Process: Einstein will select awards to be funded through an internal review committee. Projects will be evaluated in terms of scientific merit, investigators, and approach.

Questions: Please contact Brian Pelowski at brian.pelowski@einsteinmed.org.