Innovative Medicines Accelerator
COVID-19 Response: Request for Proposals for Drug and Vaccine Prototyping
May 2020

Stanford University’s Innovative Medicines Accelerator (IMA) aims to accelerate the prototyping of innovative medicines, and to enable hypothesis-driven studies on human subjects. The purpose of this request for proposals (RFP) is to leverage emerging capacity and infrastructure at Stanford to address the current COVID-19 pandemic. Through this RFP, the IMA seeks to support translational research projects that will develop scalable drug screening assays, validate novel drug targets, repurpose molecules with human safety data, or engineer new reagents that will serve as drug or vaccine prototypes for COVID-19. Competitive projects will have a strong therapeutic or prophylactic hypothesis. Projects at all stages (lead discovery, lead optimization) and modalities (small molecule, large molecule) will be considered provided that the project is driven by developing a therapy or prophylaxis for COVID-19. Basic research and pre-target identification/pre-assay development research are excluded from this RFP.

Support Provided:
Successful applicants will receive $50K-$100K (total direct) for 6-12 months with the possibility to apply for follow-up funding, contingent upon progress and scientific needs to address the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Projects may be fully or partially funded.

Deadline:
All application materials must be received by May 29, 2020.

Eligibility:
All Stanford faculty with PI eligibility are welcome to apply.

Application Instructions:
Submit one PDF file containing the following materials in the order indicated below. All documents should be single-spaced, Arial 11-point font with 0.5-inch margins.

1. Title page (1 page)
   b. Project title
   c. Investigator(s): Name, department, address, phone number, email address
   d. Application summary (150 words) – Please provide a high-level description of the project that highlights the biological process/molecule(s) that will be targeted. Describe how it will impact clinical practice and patient outcomes for COVID-19 if successful. Emphasize what is novel about the approach.
2. Proposal (2 pages maximum)
a. Therapeutic or Prophylactic hypothesis – Describe the therapeutic or prophylactic hypothesis and its supporting evidence. Provide preliminary data, if available.

b. Technical summary – Briefly describe the proposed research, such as the assay(s) to be developed, or drug or vaccine prototype to be engineered.

c. Research goals should be achievable within 6-24 months.

3. References
4. Budget with justification (PI salary support is not provided)
5. NIH-format biosketch for each investigator

Applications should be submitted directly to ChEM-H through the SlideRoom portal found here: https://chemh.stanford.edu/covid-19-drug-and-vaccine-prototyping. You do not need to submit your applications to your Research Process Manager (RPM) in RMG or through your Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) Contract and Grant officer (CGO) for their approval at this time.

Selection Process & Timeline:
Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty panel knowledgeable in translational research and evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Strength of the evidence for the drug or vaccine hypothesis for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19
2. Novelty of the therapeutic or vaccine hypothesis
3. Availability of needed materials and access to required facilities
4. Achievable goals within 6-24 months

Finalists will be selected by July 1 for immediate launch of research projects.

Contact:
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