

The Center for Microbiome Informatics and Therapeutics was founded to accelerate the development of therapeutics to treat microbiome-associated disease, with a core focus on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). To support this mission, the Center has established an interdisciplinary translational research program integrating clinical and basic approaches to research. Over the past 3 years the Center has awarded over \$4 million to support the development of tools to diagnose, prevent and treat ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. In 2017, we continue to support the most groundbreaking proposals in the field of IBD research, and will also integrate translational research into one or more new microbiome-associated disease.

#### *Key Dates*

Announcement Posted: **October 17, 2017**

Letter of Intent Due Date: **November 20, 2017**

Invitation to submit Full Proposal Distributed: **December 18, 2017**

Full Proposals Due: **January 29, 2018**

Only Invited Full Applications will be Considered for Funding

#### *Funding Opportunities*

- **Innovation Grants** of up to **\$125,000 each for 1 year** in direct costs (plus overhead capped at 25%) to support projects that accelerate translation of basic research to clinical applications
- **Pilot Grants** of up to **\$50,000 each for 1 year** in direct costs (plus overhead capped at 25%) to support feasibility studies

*We are especially interested in proposals that address the following needs:*

- Novel, low-cost toolkits for non-invasive, systems-level measurements
- Screening for candidate therapeutic microbes, and/or small molecules
- Determining rules for assembly and/or maintenance of microbial communities in Inflammatory Bowel Disease or other microbiome-associated disease
- Determining the influence of the fungal and viral microbiome in inflammatory Bowel Disease (or other disease areas)
- Function and significance of the altered microbiome in these disease areas:
  - Tolerance and Autoimmunity
  - Demonstrating the role of the microbiome in determining the Gut-Brain Axis in health and disease

*We will NOT consider:*

- Proposals from Investigators that currently have an award
- Proposals for support of clinical trials. Applications for clinical collaboration will be considered by submission of an application found here <http://microbiome.mit.edu/clinical-collaborations/>
- Proposals that focus on dissecting microbiome ecology or biology without direct therapeutic application

### *Expectations for Grant Recipients*

**Within the funding period, award recipients are expected to apply for funding from other sources** including federal agencies, charitable or private foundations, to match or exceed funding from the Center to advance this project beyond the current goals.

**The Center is committed to building an interactive research community. Award recipients are expected to engage within this community by active participation in:**

- Monthly Work-in-Progress Meetings held at The Broad Institute. You will present your research on a rotating schedule
- 4 Roundtable Meetings for Principal Investigators
- Center Symposia and Microbiome Seminar Series
- Undergraduate education by supporting the Center's superUROP & UROP programs

### *Eligibility*

Applications will be considered from Principal Investigators from Research Institutes in MA, CT, VT, NH, or RI

Instructors from an eligible Institute may apply, by including a letter of support from their respective Department Chair. Postdoctoral Associates are not eligible to apply for these awards.

### *Application Process*

Applications are reviewed by Committee in a 2-step process: *submission of a letter of intent, followed by a full proposal upon invitation only.*

**Letter of Intent due by November 20, 2017**

**To be considered, the LOI must include:**

- Statement of whether the application is for a Pilot or Innovation Project Award
- Concise summary of up to 150 words outlining project objectives and deliverables
- Brief description of the proposed research project (less than 1,000 word; word count does not include References)
- List of the contact details of the Principal Investigator(s)
- List of all participating institutions
- NIH-format biosketch for the Principal Investigator(s)

**Submit electronically to Vicki Mountain at [vjm@mit.edu](mailto:vjm@mit.edu)**

Invitations to submit Full Proposals will be sent to select candidates by **December 18, 2017**