



City of Hope-UC Riverside Biomedical Research Initiative (CUBRI)

Request for Applications (RFA) for Pilot Grants Supporting Innovative Collaborations in 2024

Great advances in biomedical research are often started through unexpected collaborations. The City of Hope -UC Riverside Biomedical Research Initiative (CUBRI) is created to build such partnerships between investigators at UC Riverside and the City of Hope. Supported by a generous gift, this initiative aims to foster collaborative research by funding pilot projects of one year duration to leverage innovative ideas into improved treatments for patients. Each project requires two Principal Investigators (PIs), one from UC Riverside and one from either **Professor Series or Clinical Professor Series** at City of Hope, to jointly conceive, conduct and oversee the joint project at both institutions. As part of the collaboration, a project can dedicate and share graduate students or postdoctoral fellows to carry out the proposed studies. Support of up to \$100,000 per project is provided for one year with \$50,000 (minus up to 10% indirect costs) awarded to each partner at their home institution.

The City of Hope -UC Riverside Biomedical Research Initiative is being administered jointly by Victoria Seewaldt, MD, Associate Director, Population Sciences Research, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center and Peter Atkinson, PhD, Interim Dean, College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences UC Riverside.

Applicants should send a brief description of their project (see directions below) and include the name, title and contact information of each PI, one from UC Riverside and one from City of Hope.

If a clinical study is proposed, City of Hope Institutional Review Board (IRB) must be the primary IRB.

Please email the application as a single pdf attachment to Ms. Sandra Hilton, Senior Administrative Director, City of Hope (shilton@coh.org). Applications will be reviewed and selected for funding on a competitive basis by a selection committee consisting of reviewers from both campuses.

The deadline for submission is Monday, May 20, 2024 (5:00 PM local time); funding will commence June 1, 2024.

Eligibility: Each PI must be a research focused - either clinical, translational, or clinical - faculty member at their home institution - UC Riverside or City of Hope - and may submit no more than one application.

Application: In order to establish consistency and fairness, all proposals must contain (only) the following elements:

1. A title page with the title of the proposal, the PI from each institution (must be tenure-track faculty), and their contact information.
2. A succinct, 2 page proposal that describes the problem to be solved, approaches for its solution that highlight the transformative nature of the proposed work, and the long-term biomedical goals of the project. Please describe what each PI will contribute to the project, and how the

project requires collaboration between these two PIs and the two campuses. This part of the proposal is limited to 2 pages (using no less than single spacing and a 12-point font), should include all figures, tables and other display items, but excluding any references.

3. Budget: a detailed budget is **not** required when funds are only used for personnel and supplies. The exception is when special equipment is specifically needed for the proposed project; in such cases these equipment costs must be described on a separate page and justified. Approval for purchase of equipment will be decided on an individual basis following review and selection for funding.
4. An NIH or NSF style biographical sketch for each PI.
5. Current and pending support for each PI using either NIH or NSF format.
6. Please **do not** include appendix material such as additional tables, figures, movies, reprints, or preprints as these will not be included in the review.

Review Criteria: In support of the goal of this initiative, reviewers will focus on the strengths and weakness of each proposal in three areas:

1. Synergy between the research strengths of the two PIs, and how complementary are these strengths for the proposed project.
2. Innovation of the proposal, and potential impact of the research concept/hypothesis.
3. Potential for the pilot project to launch an application for further funding from extramural sources such as the NIH.

This initiative, funded by a generous gift, will greatly enhance the development of key research partnerships between City of Hope and UC Riverside. We look forward to what we can achieve together for the benefit of patients facing life-threatening diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

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