

Program in Comparative Animal Biology (PICAB)

Pilot Grants in Zoonoses

Submission Requirements

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EMPHASIS OF THIS PROGRAM IS TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES IN ZOOZOSES.

Guidelines

- The ITMAT-CTSA Program in Comparative Animal Biology (PICAB) announces a pilot grant program between veterinary and human medicine to advance translational therapeutics. The focus of the pilot grants is on translational research on zoonotic infectious diseases. The purpose is to facilitate interdisciplinary investigations to advance potential therapeutic approaches for infectious diseases that infect animals and humans, and may or may not involve intermediate vectors. The entire range of infectious diseases - bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, and virology - will be considered.

- Two pilot grants of up to \$30,000 each are available this year.

- The project must have one co-PI from the School of Veterinary Medicine, and one co-PI from the Perelman School of Medicine. Additional faculty may be part of a proposal as co-investigators. Projects may be in any area of zoonotic organisms.

- The emphasis of this pilot program is on molecular medicine approaches for treatment or prevention of zoonotic diseases. The candidate disease and experimental therapy should involve models that, if successful, would provide a potential path towards human application or overcome a major barrier to translation. Rodents or other animal hosts may be proposed, as appropriate for the specific type of disease.

Since many other internal and external programs are supporting investigations on SARS-CoV-2, we are encouraging investigations into other organisms. If a project does involve SARS-CoV-2, the focus should be on the animal reservoir. If appropriate to the translational goal, organs-in-a-dish or other in vitro systems may be utilized. The review will place a strong emphasis on the potential of the pilot study to advance toward a translational application and/or lead to extramural funding.

NOTE: "Translation" will be interpreted broadly. A project may, for example, investigate a key step in transmission or pathogenesis that could be manipulated to alter the organism's functions in a manner that could provide a lead to a potential treatment approach. The reasoning should be explained in the application.

- The pilot projects ideally should be completed in 12 months, however, the funding may be extended for up to 24 months if needed to accrue a statistically valid cohort of subjects.

- PICAB grants are available to registered members of the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT). Interested investigators who are not currently members of ITMAT can register to join (www.itmat.upenn.edu/membership). Investigators who would like advice on potential partners in the other school may contact Dr. John H. Wolfe via Emily Benenhaley at 215-590-7030 or ebenen@vet.upenn.edu.

- All proposals are due by Wed Dec 9, 2021, at 12 pm noon for a project start date of February 1, 2022. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED NOR, WILL EXTENSIONS BE GRANTED.

Required Documents/

- The application should adhere to NIH grant application formatting requirements and include: 1) up to 2 pages for specific aims, description of the model, and experiments to be undertaken; 2) 1/2 page explaining a plausible pathway to translation and how the proposed studies will support that goal, as well as support future extramural grant applications; biosketches in the NIH format for both PIs, including other support; and 3) a 1 page budget which may include animal care, laboratory supplies, and salary for technicians, graduate students or post-docs (travel and faculty salaries are not allowed).

- Copies of IRB and IACUC approval letters will be required if an award is funded. Funding will be delayed until these approval documents are received.

Other

- Any publications that are the direct result of this funding must reference: “Supported in part by the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics of the Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.” “Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number UL1TR001878. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.”
- A progress report will be requested every year for 4 years so that we can track the success of supporting projects that result in the receipt of a grant, publication, or technology transfer. You will receive a system generated email requesting you to complete a progress report.
- You will be prohibited from applying for ITMAT pilot funding if you do not reference the funding support on publications and if you do not submit progress reports.

Document Submission

All applications should be submitted via ITMAT’s Pilot Grant System at www.med.upenn.edu/apps/itmat/pg. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU CHOOSE THE PICAB GRANT PROGRAM WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR GRANT PROGRAM. You will need your PennKey logon and password to access this system. If you do not have a PennKey, obtaining one will take at least 48 hours so do not wait until the last minute. We will not accept applications late because of this. Once you start an application, you can proxy someone (grants manager, post doc, etc.) to finish it for you.

- Each investigator and Co-Investigator must be an ITMAT member.
- Each Investigator and Co-Investigator must have the approval of their respective Business Administrator.
- Penn Faculty should select the Business Administrator or Grants Manager that normally signs off on all of their research proposals.
- Please ensure that the documents you upload are the final documents. ITMAT will not update or replace files. This means that prior to hitting the submit button, all documents must be final.
- When contacting the ITMAT business office, please use the same discretion you would employ if contacting an external sponsor.
- Please ensure that you have liaised with all of the Co-Investigators on your application. This will avoid proposals being rejected by their Business Administrator.
- All documents must be uploaded by noon on the due date of the proposal to ensure time for all approvals. All approvals must be completed by 5 pm on the due date. We suggest you do not wait until noon to start uploading documents.
- Once all approvals are completed, the grant will be received by ITMAT.

Application or Funding Questions

Investigators who would like advice on potential partners in the other school may contact Dr. John H. Wolfe via Emily Benenhaley at 215-590-7030. If you do plan to submit a proposal, it would be very helpful for organizing the review process if you would let us know in advance the title or subject area and the names of the co-PI's.

Please direct any system-related questions to Andrea Albelda, aalbelda@penmedicine.upenn.edu, or Charles Molli, cmolli@upenn.edu.