

## Miller Diabetes Initiative

### *Request for Proposals*

#### **Purpose:**

In partnership with the Larry H. and Gail Miller Family Foundation, University of Utah Health has launched a new 3- year initiative to battle diabetes in the state of Utah and across the region through education and prevention outreach, innovations in clinical care, and cutting-edge research.

As part of this effort, the we are requesting proposals to catalyze novel research projects in the areas of diabetes, obesity, and metabolism, and to train the next generation of researchers. The expectation is that within one year all proposals will have measurable outcomes that can be presented to the foundation.

#### **Research Scope:**

We invite applications from all diabetes and obesity-related areas including basic, translational, clinical, and population health research. Applications involving the broad areas of the genetics of diabetes/metabolic disease, drug discovery, and diabetes prevention research are especially encouraged.

#### **Funding Mechanisms:**

This RFP will fund 3 different types of awards with a maximum award amount of of \$50,000. Note that only one award will be funded per PI, but PIs are encouraged to submit a single proposal to all applicable mechanisms.

1. Seed grant ( $\leq$ \$50K/1YR). Seed grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded for a period of one year. This mechanism is intended to result in preliminary data that will allow for competitive applications to the NIH or other agencies and foundations. Collaborations are encouraged. These projects are expected to have measurable deliverables/outcomes after the one year funding period.

2. Graduate Student Fellowship (\$50K/2YR). Graduate Student Fellowships in the amount of \$25,000 per year will be awarded for a period of two years. Funds are intended to offset trainee salary support. Any supplemental trainee salary support and benefits must be covered by the investigator and/or departmental funds. Trainees that have current fellowship support through other sources are not eligible.

3. Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$50K/1YR). Postdoctoral Fellowships in the amount of \$50,000 will be awarded for a period of one year. Funds are intended to offset trainee salary support. Any supplemental trainee salary support and benefits must be covered by the investigator and/or departmental funds. Funding is for one year with the possibility of a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding under certain circumstances. Trainees that have current fellowship support through other sources are not eligible.

Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, Research Unit

---

## **Proposal Guidelines and Eligibility:**

- Investigators are encouraged to submit a single research proposal for all applicable mechanisms. For example, an investigator may apply to both the seed grant mechanism and the postdoc fellowship mechanism using the same research proposal (items 2-7 below). However, when applying to multiple mechanisms, please modify your application packet to include the appropriate budget and mechanism-specific materials (items 1 and 8-13 below).
- Only one research proposal per *Principal Investigator* per application cycle will be reviewed.
- Only one \$50,000 award of any mechanism will be made to each Principle Investigator.
- All Principle Investigators must be at least 0.75 FTE tenure track faculty or 0.75 FTE clinical/research faculty at the University of Utah/VA.
- Receipt of previous seed grant funding from the Diabetes and Metabolism Center does not preclude investigators from applying.

## **Application Instructions:**

Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted electronically through the University of Utah's Competition Space interface at <http://utah.infoready4.com/> by **August 23, 2017**.

### All applications must include:

1. Cover letter (1 page). Please indicate the funding mechanism(s) for which you are applying and the preferred priority rank for each mechanism.
2. Lay Abstract (1/2 page). This abstract may be presented to the foundation and will be included in the evaluation criteria.
3. Specific aims of the research proposal (1 page)
4. Detailed proposal. (Up to 3 pages, plus references on additional pages as needed). Please address significance, innovation, approach, and include detailed timeline.
5. NIH Biographical sketch for all investigators (5 pages max)
6. Current and pending support for all investigators
7. If human subjects or animal research is involved, provide one copy of the IRB or IACUC confirmation. IRB and IACUC approvals must be approved prior to funds being released. If approvals are not in place at time of application, please indicate expected approval date.

### For Seed Grant applications, please also include:

8. Proposed project budget not to exceed \$50,000. Budget template is attached.
9. Anticipated deliverables to be completed by the end of the one-year project period. Please include anticipated submitted/pending/awarded grants, awards, publications, new collaborations, new tools, etc. (1 page)

### For Graduate Student fellowship application, please also include:

10. Graduate student's CV
11. Recommendation letter from PI that includes the anticipated deliverables at the end of the one-year project period for this graduate student. Please include anticipated submitted/pending/awarded grants, awards, publications, future trainee position, etc.

*For Postdoctoral Fellowship application, please also include:*

12. Postdoctoral fellow's CV
13. Recommendation letter from the PI that includes the anticipated deliverables at the end of the one-year project period for the postdoctoral fellow. Please include anticipated submitted/pending/awarded grants, awards, publications, future fellow position, new tools, etc.

All applicable items must be submitted as one PDF.

### **Seed Grant Budget Guidelines:**

Seed Grant funds may be used for salaries and fringe benefits of post-doctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, supplies, miscellaneous expenses, and services. Seed Grant funds cannot be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year); travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant); consultants; or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified). Please prepare a one-page budget with maximum direct costs of \$50,000 for one year of support. The budget template on Competition Space (<https://utah.infoready4.com/>) is not required but may be used for this purpose.

### **Evaluation and Funding of Proposals:**

Proposals will be reviewed by a research committee to assess innovation, scientific merit, collaboration, and alignment with the goals of the Defeat Diabetes Initiative. Preference will be given to applications that have high scientific merit, are currently not supported by extramural funding (for seed grant funding), are compelling to a lay audience, and have promise for significant outcomes at the end of the one year funding period.

Applicants will be informed of the status of their proposal within ~2 months of the submission deadline, with funding to begin on or around October, 2017, and after appropriate IRB/IACUC approvals are in place. Maximum funding per project is \$50,000. Unused funds must be returned to the Defeat Diabetes Initiative at the end of the project period. Grant administration is the responsibility of the Principal Investigators.

### **Mid Year Progress Report:**

After the first 6 months of funding, a one-page progress report will be required for review by the research committee to assure adequate scientific progress.

### **Final Report:**

At the end of the project period, funded proposals must provide a progress report of no more than two pages in length describing the results of the research, future directions, and plans to secure additional funding. PIs and trainees may be required to present to the foundation at a diabetes symposium.

*Questions? Please contact:* Bridget Hughes ([Bridget.hughes@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Bridget.hughes@hsc.utah.edu))