

Request for Applications
PIDD-PI4D SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) RFA
Announcement Date: Friday, October 23rd, 2020
Proposal Deadline: Friday, December 4th, 2020

Introduction and Background

To increase the prominence of research and drug discovery/development activities within SARS-CoV-2 at Purdue University, the Institutes for Drug Discovery (PIDD) and Immunology, Inflammation, and Infectious Disease (PI4D) are allocating funds and access to Purdue's BSL-3 in vitro testing facilities to support research projects and/or the establishment of collaborative teams.

SARS-CoV-2 is an unprecedented global health crises that has threatened individual, social, and economic health. While progress in detection, prevention, and treatment have been made, there is a clear need for more advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and formulation options.

Examples of research directions responsive to this RFA include (but are not limited to):

Diagnostics

- Development of new or application of existing diagnostic platform for the identification of SARS-CoV-2
- Development of new diagnostic platforms for the rapid identification of emerging infectious disease

Therapeutics

- Identification of novel therapeutics against SAR-CoV-2
- Medicinal chemistry efforts to optimize therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2
- Testing novel or repurposed therapeutics in in vitro or in vivo models of SARS-CoV-2
- Pharmacokinetic analyses of drug candidates with activity in SARS-CoV-2 models in rodents or large animals

Formulations

- Development of new or application of existing formulations to improve properties of SARS-CoV-2 therapeutics or vaccines
- Development of new formulations to improve "shelf-life" of vaccines or negate requirements for ultra-cold storage

Ultimately, a successful project or team should raise the prominence of Purdue and its efforts to combat SARS-CoV-2, impact patient care by enabling the successful translation of laboratory discoveries into the clinic, provide a benefit to affiliated researchers, and/or lead to the attainment of external funding (e.g. R01s, multi-PI grants, center grants, etc.).

Applicants are encouraged to consult with the PI4D/PIDD leadership teams. Questions or requests for consultations can be directed to Tommy Sors (tsors@purdue.edu) or Karson Putt (puttk@purdue.edu).

General Guidelines:

1. **Qualification** – Lead PI must currently be or become a member of PIDD/PI4D. Co-PIs or other key personnel are not required to be members, but membership is strongly encouraged.
2. **Proposal Length** – Proposal should be single-spaced and a maximum of 2 pages in length (Calibri or similar font at 11pt) with no less than 0.5 inch page margins. References are not part of the page limit.
3. **Timeline** – Funding will be available for 1 year.
4. **File format** – Only .doc, .docx, or .pdf files will be accepted. Any figures should be embedded in the document and must fit within the maximum page limit.
5. **Progress Report and Future Reporting** – Any funding and/or publications that are generated from this activity must be reported to the Institutes (Karson Putt, puttk@purdue.edu).
6. **Deadline** – Applications must be received by Karson Putt (puttk@purdue.edu) by 5:00 pm on Friday, December 4th, 2020. Applicants **do not** need to work with pre-award/SPS to submit an application for this internal RFA.

Award:

Up to \$25,000 will be made available to the project. If needed to complete the objectives of the project, usage of Purdue's BSL-3 in vitro testing facility can be provided. Applicants who require BSL-3 usage should contact Tommy Sors (tsors@purdue.edu) prior to application submission to detail needs.

Project duration should not exceed 1 year in total. Budgets should adequately reflect the needs of the project.

Funds can be used for S&E, core facilities, and/or to support graduate student(s), post-doctoral student(s) and/or technical staff. Travel, if deemed critical for the successful implementation of the program by the reviewers is allowable in the budget.

Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries, hospitality expenses, F&A nor capital equipment.

Application Format:

The following information must be included within the maximum 2 page limit

1. Overview of proposed project
2. Specific aim(s)
 - Including milestones, quantitative project deliverables and/or metrics for success
3. Significance

- How will the research address unmet needs
- How project will help translate lab discoveries into positive clinical outcomes for patients or otherwise impact human health
- 4. Approach
 - How will project deliverables be met?
 - How will resources be leveraged?
- 5. Extramural funding strategy
 - Provide an outline of steps that will be taken to procure external funding after PIIN/PIDD support ends. This section should clearly describe how completion of milestones would aid in strengthening a planned or pending submission. Potential categories of extramural funding (e.g. philanthropic, government, corporate partnership), as well as specific sponsors or funding mechanisms within each category, should be indicated.
- 6. Additional resources in addition to funding required from the PIIN and/or PIDD to successfully implement the project (if applicable)

Additional information that must be included (not included in the page limit requirements)

1. References
2. List of key personnel/Co-PIs (in the case of pre-existing collaborations, personnel such as graduate students, post-docs or staff that are already collaborating may be listed as well)
3. Budget justification
4. NIH Biosketches for all involved PIs and key personnel

Review Criteria:

1. Potential for the proposed project raising the prominence of Purdue and the PI4D and PIDD
2. Scientific merit
3. Potential for subsequent external follow-on funding (Center grants, multi-PI grants, R01s, etc.)
4. Appropriateness of budget requested
5. Feasibility of completing the proposed milestones within the proposed timeframe
6. Potential impact on patient care via feasibility of translating academic discoveries into the clinic
7. Synergy of collaborating faculty/co-personnel

Publications resulting from PIDD and PI4D support should be acknowledged as follows:

“The authors gratefully acknowledge support from the Purdue University Institute for Drug Discovery and Institute for Inflammation, Immunology, and Infectious Disease”