

Request for Application (RFA) for Seed grant from Manipal McGill Center for Infectious Diseases (MAC ID) for the year 2017-2018

Description of the Seed Grant Program:

The goal of Manipal McGill Center for Infectious Diseases (MAC ID) seed grant award is to encourage faculty members of MU in research in the area of infectious diseases and generate a critical mass of fundamental information/pilot data which can further help the investigators to develop proposals for extramural funding. Proposals must show a clear plan to seek further funding after the seed grant period has ended. The applicant must clearly and convincingly demonstrate that the proposed project represents a research direction in an area likely to generate extramural funding.

Seed grants of **INR 2 lakh** each will be awarded to deserving proposals. Grants are non-renewable. Duration of the seed grant projects should be a maximum of 12 months. 6 grants would be awarded in this year.

Eligibility

- The principal investigator must be a member of MAC ID and a faculty of Manipal University; the coinvestigator (s) may be member/non-member.
- Seed grant is open to all areas of Infectious Diseases
- Duration of project should be for a maximum of 1 year
- A MAC ID member can submit one seed grant application as the principal-investigator; However can be a co-investigator in other grant applications

Ineligible projects:

- Members who have current funding ≥ 5 Lakhs as Principal Investigator are not eligible to apply for MAC ID seed grants
- The previous seed grant awardees are ineligible to apply.
- Research that is already supported by other sources

Time lines:

- Call for proposals open: 25/07/2017
- Application submission due date: 19/09/2017, 17:00 hours
- Review of applications: October/November 2017
- Announcement of awards: 2nd week of November 2017
- Grant money will be released on submission of Ethics committee approval certificate
- Project may start after Ethics committee approval but not later than and February 2018

The format for submission: (Proposal length would be 6 pages with subheadings)

| Proposal sections | Requirements (all single spaced pages with 12 point times new roman font and 0.75 inch margins) |
|--|--|
| <p>First Page:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Title of the Research Project2. Name and Designation of<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Principal Investigator & Emailii) Co-Investigator(s) & Email3. Signature of the:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Principal Investigatorii) b) Co-Investigator(s):iii) Head of the Department of the PI | |
| <p>Declaration: (Please tick)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ I do not have current funding ≥ 5 Lakhs as a Principal Investigator. <input type="checkbox"/>➤ The proposed research is not supported by other sources <input type="checkbox"/> <p>I declare that the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge</p> | |

| Name and Signature of PI | Date: |
|---|--|
| <p>Tell us your idea:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objectives 2. Summary of the proposed research (up to 150 words) indicating overall aims of the research and importance of the research proposal. Application of the work in the context of national priorities of medical research, if any 3. Present knowledge/ Background 4. Preliminary work already done by the Investigator on this problem 5. Detailed research plan. (Give here the design of study, indicating the total number of cases/samples/animals to be studied, the mode of selection of subjects especially in experiments involving human beings, equipments and other materials to be used, methodology/techniques to be employed for evaluating the results including statistical methods) 6. Expected outcomes | <p>Max 3 pages (inclusive of tables and figures)</p> |
| <p>Budget and project timelines</p> <p>Budget with brief justification. Normal research expenditures including supplies, salaries for research personnel, publication cost are permitted. Funds should not be used to (a) support salary of PIs or co-applicants, (b)</p> | <p>Max 1 page</p> |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| <p>purchase equipment, (c) cover travel expenses related to conferences.</p> <p>Project may start after Ethics committee approval but not later than February 2018</p> | |
| <p>Plan for development of the proposal for extramural funding</p> <p>Indicate from which extramural support programs you will be seeking support. List specific programs and why you anticipate that the research supported by this seed grant will leverage external support.</p> <p>What will be the thrust of the proposal and how is this specifically supported by this seed funding? What is the application area you will be targeting, and what is the societal impact of the work you will be proposing?</p> | <p>Max 1/2 page</p> |
| <p>Key references</p> | <p>Max 1/2 page</p> |
| <p>CVs of the investigators with relevant publications and grants of last 5 years must be attached.</p> | |

How to submit the proposal?

The soft copy in pdf format to be emailed to macid.mu@manipal.edu as a single file along with one hard copy to be sent to MACID office.

How will proposals be judged?

A peer review committee consisting of Manipal and McGill faculty will evaluate the applications as per the scoring system for selection of awardees.

Applications will be scored on:

| Criteria | Score (0-3)* | Weight | Score X weight |
|---|--------------|--------|----------------|
| Are the goals, objectives, stated clearly | | 2 | |
| Present knowledge/ background presented? | | 1 | |
| Are the methods and expected results stated clearly | | 3 | |
| Is the proposal realistic and reasonable (feasibility) in its timeframes/tools given the funds and time provided? | | 1 | |
| Are the significance and merit of the research clearly documented? (Justification) | | 2 | |
| Team and expertise | | 2 | |
| Writing technique | | 1 | |
| If the proposed research is completed, does the proposal have a high chance at leveraging extramural support? | | 2 | |

* (0=Missing/inaccurate; 1=Needs improvement; 2= Adequate; 3=Exemplary); maximum score: 42; qualifying score: 21

Grant Administration

The fund will be held at MU finance, earmarked for the awardee. The utilization of the fund will have to follow MU guidelines. Purchase request has to be placed through online purchase system routed through MAC ID for approval, for the purchase of the required material.

Final Reporting

1. Within two months of the close of the project a statement of expenditure must be submitted to the MAC ID. A template will be provided.
Normal research expenditures including supplies, salaries for research personnel, are permitted. **Funds should not be used to** (a) purchase equipment, (b) cover travel expenses related to conferences (c) support salary of PIs or co-applicants
2. Within two months of the close of the project a brief scientific report must be submitted to the MAC ID. The results of the pilot study must be published in Scopus indexed scientific journals. The award money may be utilized for publication charges. The seed grant support from Manipal McGill Center for Infectious Diseases must be acknowledged in publications.
3. Seed grantees must produce a new proposal for extramural funding as the final report within one year of completion of the project.

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