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## **Penn Institute for Immunology & Immune Health**

### **2024 Pilot Grant Program RFA**

#### **Overview**

Immunology research has greatly benefited from advances in spatial imaging techniques, allowing for the visualization and analysis of immune cell interactions within tissue microenvironments. To further foster innovation in this field, the Institute for Immunology & Immune Health (I3H) is announcing a pilot grant opportunity focused on technologies and analytic pipelines for understanding immune cells interactions in tissue and cellular neighborhoods. The objective of this pilot grant is to support exploratory research projects that leverage spatial imaging techniques to investigate immunological processes within tissues, with the goal of advancing our understanding of immune cell interactions, immune responses, and disease pathogenesis.

Importantly, pilot grants that introduce new collaborations and are responsive to an upcoming RFA, future NIH Concepts or other future funding mechanism will be given priority. A specific plan should be articulated on the immunological question that will be developed and executed. It will also be important to describe how these studies will position the investigator(s) to compete more effectively for a future application and/or translated into potential future clinical opportunities. The science remains a priority; however, it is important to emphasize how the proposed studies will develop a *new line of investigation* for the PI and how the results of these studies will be capitalized on in the future.

#### **Important Dates:**

Submission deadline for full applications: **May 13, 2024**

Awards made by: **June 16, 2024**

#### **Eligibility**

All faculty members of the Penn I3H are invited to submit proposals.

**Full applications must be submitted by email to Tara Duer (ifiadmin@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) by May 13, 2024**

#### **Full Application Instructions:**

A single PDF should include the following:

- Cover page: includes abstract of up to 250 words and list of approved or pending

IACUC/IRB protocols [see attached cover page that should be included in each application].

- Application (Aims, Significance and Innovation, Preliminary Results and Experimental Design). Limited to **two pages** including all preliminary data (excluding references; references can be on additional pages).
- Applicants should include an **additional half page** section devoted to explaining how pilot funds will enable a strong, competitive application to a larger funding mechanism (e.g. multi-investigator NIH application)
- NIH biographical sketch for each investigator
- NIH other support for each investigator
- Budget: One page justification for a budget up to a maximum of \$100,000

### **Award Terms**

- 1) Awardees are required to inform the IFI in the event that the Pilot/Feasibility Project receives external funding during the project period.
- 2) A final progress report is due one month after the close of the project period. The report will contain a one-page synopsis of scientific progress and a list of resulting collaborations, publications, and grants.
- 3) Awardees will provide interim reports concerning other support, resulting publications, and research activities for the IFI annual retreat and continuation applications.
- 4) Any publications that are the direct result of this funding must reference:  
- “Supported in part by the Institute for Immunology and Immune Health”
- 4) Awardees will also be required to present their work in some capacity at the 2025 IFI Year in Review. For additional information, please contact: Tara Duer (ifiadmin@penncmedicine.upenn.edu)