Tufts Institute for Innovation

To the Tufts University Research Community
A Request for Project Proposals and Pre-Applications

Tufts Institute for Innovation (TII) announces a third round of funding with a start date of July 1, 2016.

The TII mission:

*Improving the Human Condition*

and broad research focus area:

*Global Human Health*

Funded project teams should include investigators from multiple disciplines across at least two campuses (Boston, Grafton, and Medford), who will integrate their skills and disciplines to solve a specific problem related to the above focus area.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The research area has been expanded to *global human health* as this theme mirrors the over-arching research focus area for TII. Topics of interest include, for example, microbes, diagnostics, inflammation, cancer, etc. The project team may include members from any discipline. We especially encourage projects dealing with the social sciences, computer sciences and engineering to apply. Please reach out to Lauren Linton (lauren.linton@tufts.edu) with any questions regarding ideas that you may be considering.

Proposals should request funds to support seed or pilot projects with specific aims related to global health that can be achieved **within one year.** Investigators should also discuss long-term goals to deliver on future impact of the project. Projects should offer a novel solution to a specific problem related to the global health focus area and provide a framework or plan for subsequent implementation. When discussing long-term goals, the proposal should explain how investigators will address all aspects of solving a real-world need and should be comprehensive, multidisciplinary and translational. Proposals should also incorporate implementation strategies that account for factors pertaining to economic, social, political, and policy aspects of the identified problem. If relevant, specific targeted regions or populations should be identified, and region/population-specific solutions should be addressed. It is expected that these seed projects will provide sufficient preliminary data or proof-of-concept for teams to apply for significant follow on funding to accomplish the long-term goals.

TII will provide one year funding for personnel, equipment and supplies, as well as laboratory, office, meeting, and collaboration space on the Boston campus, and will also provide administrative support. Faculty salary percent and grant total caps apply (see below). **Funding is available for up to 3-5 projects with an anticipated average one year budget of $50,000 to $100,000; however, with a compelling justification, projects with a budget of up to $150,000 will be considered.**

**Application Components and Deadlines**

**Pre-Application due: 11/3/15**

**Project Application due: 1/4/16**

**NOTE: The application process has changed.** There is a **Pre-application** required. Feedback regarding pre-applications will be issued **Dec. 1, 2016.** Final proposals will be due **Jan. 4, 2016.** Funding decisions will be made by **April 1, 2016.**

**Part 1: Pre-Application**

The pre-application is a one-page, concise summary of the project application. It is both a screening tool and an opportunity for applicants to acquire feedback. TII’s Executive and Steering Committees as well as other Tufts faculty experts (when applicable) will lead the screening and feedback process.

Pre-applications will be reviewed in November and a response to applicants will be issued from TII by December 1, 2016.

The **pre-application** should briefly:

- Identify the problem being investigated.
- Articulate the project's hypotheses as well as short-term (i.e. one-year) and long-term aims.
- Identify team members.
- Summarize the team’s approach.
Tufts Institute for Innovation

• Provide an estimated overall budget for the project.
• Explain how the project is innovative in nature and/or relevant to TII’s overall mission.
• Be approved by the deans of the represented schools (with signatures).

Procedure for Submitting Pre-Applications
Please submit Pre-Application electronically by 11/03/2015 to:
Christina Fogarasi, Projects Administrator, TII christina.fogarasi@tufts.edu
Tufts Institute for Innovation

Part 2: Project Application

To be considered, submitted projects **MUST**:

- Relate directly to *Improving the Human Condition* and the broad research focus area: *Global Human Health*.
- Identify a project leader and team members and explain how each team member’s expertise will be used to solve a particular aspect of the project.
- Identify any resources and expertise that TII might be able to provide to enhance the immediate and long-term goals of the project.
- Include full-time faculty from at least two Tufts campuses (i.e. Boston, Medford, Grafton; two schools on one campus do not qualify as two campuses).
- Indicate whether researchers (faculty, students, and postdocs) would benefit from spending significant time at the TII space located on the Boston campus, and if so, what equipment (and possible concomitant funds) would be required. If interested, please contact Lauren Linton (Lauren.Linton@tufts.edu) for specific information about TII’s facilities.
- Provide a project plan timeline (e.g., Gantt chart) for both first year pilot studies for immediate funding, and for a projected continuation of this work beyond the first year with the expectation that the research team will seek and secure continuation funding.

Projects **MAY**:

Include Non-Tufts collaborators, such as collaborators from industry, as long as the above requirements are satisfied. Non-Tufts collaborator’s participation must be clearly justified, including the absence of the specific expertise at Tufts.

Criteria for Selection

A peer-review process will evaluate proposals for addressing all aspects of the project and potential for impact. Criteria include:

- Clarity and appropriateness of goals and statement of need
- Degree of innovation for accomplishing project goals (within academic field and/or Tufts community)
- Feasibility of timeline
- Appropriateness of budget allocations
- The use of appropriate evaluation methods for assessing outcomes and impact, where relevant
- The potential for continued funding (Federal, NGO, or private) and collaboration should be clearly described (e.g. how the work relates to a funding agency’s mission statement).
Tufts Institute for Innovation

Project Application Form

The project application should describe both the immediate aims of a one year project for which funding will be offered (Description of Initial One Year Project), as well as how future goals could be accomplished if the project continued beyond the first year (Description of Future Comprehensive Approach to Achieve Long-term Goals).

All proposals should include the following sections as a single, electronic document in this order:

Project Title

I. PROJECT TEAM AND THEIR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE (one page, max)

   1. Project Leader(s)
   2. Project Team and relevant areas of expertise:
      Must include full-time faculty from at least two geographically dispersed campuses (e.g. Boston, Grafton, and Medford).
   3. Identify any gaps in expertise:
      Discuss any needed expertise to meet project goals, how the team might evolve over time to supplement key expertise that is missing, and a logistical plan and rationale for the future integration of this expertise. For example, this section could be used to address the project’s future global impact and which personnel, both within and beyond Tufts, need to be brought in to meet both short-term and long-term project goals.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Description of the Initial, One-year Pilot Project (two pages, max):
   Organize as follows:
   1. Background and significance of the problem to be addressed, including the targeted population/region and short-term and long-term goals of the project supported by relevant evidence in the literature.
   2. Specific aims and corresponding hypotheses for the one-year project. Explain how these aims relate to the project goals.
   3. Approach: Including overall strategy, methodology, and analyses that are required to accomplish the specific aims of the project, as well as alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success.
   4. If IACUC or IRB approvals are required for the project, describe process for obtaining approvals after notification of award but before TII funds are dispensed.

B. Description of Future Comprehensive Approach to Achieve Long-term Goals (one page, max)
   Organize as follows:
   1. Integration: How will the project team work together to build an integrated project across Tufts schools?
   2. Translational impact of the project: Potential for the innovative science to be brought to market or full implementation, including what steps, expertise or resources would be needed for achieving such an impact.
   3. Innovative aspects of the application that indicate a shift in current paradigms.
   4. Timeline: Required for both first year pilot studies (for immediate funding), and for a projected continuation for years if additional funds are secured.
   5. Potential sources of future funding.

III. RESOURCES AND BUDGET (1/2 page, max)

   1. Resources needed for One-year Pilot Project: laboratory space, office space, equipment, etc.
   2. Funds requested: Use TII budget template. Note any given faculty salary is capped at 10% of base, and no more than 15% of grant total may be faculty salaries, including benefits.
Tufts Institute for Innovation

3. Budget justification
4. List other previously funded, current or pending applications from other Tufts-internal sources, such as Tufts Collaborates! or Russo grants, etc.
5. Potential source(s) of follow-on funding

For questions regarding the scope or intent of the program, the process, or application form, please contact:

Lauren Linton, Deputy Director, TII
lauren.linton@tufts.edu

Please submit Proposals electronically by 1/4/2016 to:
Christina Fogarasi, Project Administrator, TII
christina.fogarasi@tufts.edu