

Human Immune Discovery Initiative

Background

With the support of the NIHR Oxford BRC, the University of Oxford Immunology Network has driven the development of HIDI, an initiative that aims to improve accessibility to immunological assays and expertise for all researchers across the University (and beyond). HIDI will act as a gateway to immunological resources by sponsoring 4 Discovery Platforms within the Medical Sciences Division. These Platforms are led by experienced researchers and include;

- Deep immune phenotyping
- Immune pathology and imaging
- Genomics and metagenomics
- Proteomics

Projects that flow through HIDI will vary in the number and type of assays utilised and the scientific background, including but not limited to oncology, infection, neuroscience, metabolism, and others. Close links with OUH and OUI will allow the identification and rapid translation of research for patient benefit, if desired.

The HIDI internal fund will support projects that meet the remit and scope of this Initiative. There will be two funding calls throughout the year, aiming to support a range of projects from across the University. We expect to support approximately 10 projects per year. The Management Committee, comprising members of the Immunology Network, HIDI Platforms, the NHS and OUI, will be responsible for allocating the funding.

Remit and scope

Projects will need to demonstrate a fit with one or more of the following HIDI strategic priorities;

1. Excellent, novel immunological research
2. Cross-technology, cross-Platform research
3. Research for patient benefit

Applications should aim to demonstrate the advantages that the use of HIDI Platforms will provide with particular emphasis on how access to immunological assays and expertise will advance the project. Applicants should liaise with the project manager for HIDI and the relevant Platforms well in advance of the deadline to ensure accurate costings are submitted. Projects can aim to generate preliminary data or build on existing research. Projects should be no longer than 12 months duration. A potential translational outcome would be particularly welcome.

There are two types of award available;

1. Small awards- requests must not exceed £10,000
2. Main awards- requests must not exceed £40,000

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Eligibility

Researchers at all levels within the University of Oxford are encouraged to apply. Those with limited access to immunological expertise will be particularly welcome.

Costing and match funding

The total value of the HIDI Internal Fund for this call is £100,000. For main awards, applications will need to demonstrate a clear case for how HIDI support will provide significant insight to a research question. Match funding is especially encouraged. Projects are expected to be between 6 and 12 months in duration and awards made in June 2018 will start on 1st September 2018. This will allow rapid assessment of the benefit of HIDI to aid future sustainability approaches.

The funding will ONLY support the direct costs of using the HIDI Discovery Platforms. Staff costs are not eligible.

How to apply

Online application via IRAMS requests information about the lead applicant and any co-applicants or editors, a lay summary, a financial breakdown of your proposal and a case for support uploaded to the IRAMS application system. You must incorporate all requested components of the case for support into one document and upload this on IRAMS as a PDF. A template is available on the Case for Support tab of the online application form and must include requested elements as follows;

- A 250-word abstract of the proposal requesting HIDI funding.
- Research objectives and proposed outcomes, including information about proposed development milestones and potential next steps following completion of the project to include, for example, sources of follow on funding, plans for commercialisation.
- Please append a one-page CV for each applicant and co-applicant

Management Committee

Paul Klenerman
Quentin Sattentau
Helen Ferry
Chris Willberg
Nicola Ternette
Calli Dendrou
Adam Mead
Neil Ashley
Errin Johnson
Alan Wainman
Ross Sadler
Matt Carpenter
Georgina Kerr