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UFII Request for Applications:

COVID-19 Response Seed Funding

Timeline

Application Deadline:	May 15, 2020
Anticipated Notice of Awards:	May 31ᵗ, 2020
Award Funding Period (up to 6 months):	June 1ˢᵗᵗ-Sept 1st

Purpose and Areas of Interest

The UF Informatics Institute invites applications for data science, machine learning, AI and mathematical modeling related research that can be rapidly mobilized to help address various facets of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This RFA is designed to support projects that can be accomplished in 4-6 months and will contribute new knowledge that can inform the COVID-19 response and/or lay critical groundwork for subsequent research while extramural funding opportunities emerge.

This RFA invites applications across the full spectrum of interdisciplinary research, including (but not limited to) research involving clinical and epidemiological data, outcomes research and health services research, supply chain issues, economic impact issues and the development of new technologies and methodologies. It is expected that research supported by this mechanism will result in one or more publications in a peer-reviewed journal and provide critical preliminary data to support extramural applications.

Total Available Funding and Award Amounts

UFII will make a total of up to $140,000 available for this RFA depending on quality of submissions and budget availability. Faculty can apply for awards of up to $20,000 each with a maximum six month duration. UFII estimates to make up to 7-8 awards.

Eligibility

To be competitive, proposals must include or meet the following criteria:

- Be multi-/interdisciplinary and must involve faculty from at least two departments/units/colleges. **Single-investigator proposals are not eligible.** For a list of potential collaborators across disciplines and within our different thrust areas please visit our member faculty page.

- Proposals involving hypothesis-driven research should clearly and explicitly state the hypothesis. Projects that are methodological should focus on specific, key interdisciplinary problems.

- Proposals may be submitted by any UF faculty member (PI) eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency (see [Eligibility to Submit a Proposal for External Funding](#)). Courtesy, Adjunct, Visiting and OPS faculty; Assistant In, Associate In, Senior Associate In; Research Associates; and Postdoctoral Associates are not eligible to be PIs; they may participate as co-PIs or co-investigators.

- If Human subjects or Human subject data PI must be compliant: Awardees must be in compliance with all IRB, IACUC and/or Biosafety policies, including the latest UF Research guidance for conducting research during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key COVID-related resources and guidelines:
- o UF Research: https://research.ufl.edu/covid-19-updates.html
- o UF IRB：http://irb.ufl.edu/index/covid-19-resources.html
- o UF Office of Clinical Research：https://clinicalresearch.ctsi.ufl.edu/covid-19/

Awardee Requirements

All principal investigators are expected to meet the following reporting requirements within the performance period of their award:

- Serve as a guest speaker or present a poster at the UFII Annual Symposium.

- Produce a full report at the conclusion at the six month period outlining outcomes, external funding to be submitted for, and peer journals work is published in (contact Alethea Geiger for template: ageiger0213@ufl.edu)

- Serve, upon request, on a UFII Review committee for other UFII programs.

- Any papers published or submitted for publishing using UFII Fund results/data. Be sure to site in the publication "This project was supported by the UF Informatics Institute (UFII) COVID-19 Response SEED Program".

Review Process and Criteria

Proposals submitted by the faculty to UFII will be reviewed by faculty review panels, which include members of the UFII Steering Committee and other interdisciplinary faculty on campus. The faculty review panels will make recommendations to the Director of UFII and a decision will be finalized.

Funding decisions and priority will be based on one or more of the following criteria:
- Contributes new knowledge that can inform the COVID-19 response and/or lay critical groundwork for subsequent research to address the COVID-19 pandemic
- Can realistically be completed in a 4-6 month timespan, with appropriate safeguards in place
- Supports multidisciplinary collaboration
- Encourages the development or use of emerging methodologies and technologies
- Allows for rapid acquisition or analysis of proof-of-principle data to proceed with full-scale investigations
- Shows significant promise in securing external funding

Budgeting and Spending Requirements

- Funds can only be used for direct costs.

- **Not-allowed costs**: Faculty salaries, equipment purchases (i.e. computers, laptops, screens, computer peripherals, etc.), travel, manuscript submission.

- Subcontract awards to external institutions are prohibited due to the abbreviated nature of this project performance period.

- Funds must be used in the 4-6 month timeframe. Any un-spent funds will be returned to the UFII at the end of the 6-month funding period.

- Funds are non-transferrable and must be used for the activities outlined in the approved application and awarded budget.

- No cost extensions will not be permitted due to the short time frame of the project period.

- There are no indirect costs associated with this grant.

Application Instructions

Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence attached at the COVID-19 Response Pilot Submission Portal as a single PDF file. **Proposals must use single spacing; font size no smaller than 11 point; minimum 0.5 inch margins on all sides; tables and figure legends can be in 10 point.**

- **Cover Page:** Include title, list of PIs, co-PIs and all faculty contributing time to the project and their departmental/college affiliations, email address of primary contact PI, project start date and budget amount requested of UFII funds.

- **Abstract:** Up to 200 words. Explain the rationale for the work to be accomplished in terms that can be understood by an "intelligent non-expert."

- **Project Description:** Up to five (5) pages of text MAXIMUM describing the project. If proposals are longer than 5 pages, only the first 5 pages will be reviewed. The project description should be written such that it can be understood by an interdisciplinary faculty committee. PIs must keep in mind that their proposals are not being evaluated by a discipline-specific committee, but rather by an interdisciplinary one.

- **Project description to include the following**:
  - Significance/Innovation/Approach-for each include statistical design and methodologies.
  - Safety Plan-If research involves use of virus, handling of infectious materials, and/or direct contact with human subjects, please describe safety precautions that will be implemented to ensure the safety of research teams and/or participants. If not applicable please specify NOT APPLICABLE.
  - Project Timeline and Continuity Plan: Include a realistic project timeline with milestones that can be achieved in six months. Identify personnel, supplies and on-campus facilities/access that would be essential for project completion, and specify any contingency plans that would be needed to ensure project completion amid evolving response to COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Preliminary Data (if applicable)

- **Project Budget :** Proposed budgets should be in the range of up to $20,000 and a duration of a maximum of 6 months. **Prohibited costs include**: Faculty salaries, travel, equipment

(i.e. computers and computer accessories), manuscript submission, or subcontracts. Any budgets including these will be returned without review.

- **Budget Justification** (2 pages maximum)

- **Key Personnel:** A list of the individuals to be involved and details of their participation. (no page limit)

- **External funding support plan**(2 pages maximum). Outline the external funding sources you plan to pursue post six month duration using the methodologies, data, approaches gained through this research.

- **Biosketch(s):** A current biosketch (either NIH or NSF format) OR most current CV of the Principal Investigator and each of the Co-PIs/Co-Investigators and Key Personnel on the project, (Maximum of 3 pages for each individual).

Contact for Questions

Please email questions to:

George Michailidis (gmichail@ufl.edu)
or
Alethea Geiger (ageiger0213@ufl.edu)