

Call for Pilot Project Applications
Center on Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (CEZID)
NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence
Kansas State University

Director: Dr. Juergen A. Richt
Associate Director: Dr. Philip Hardwidge

Applications due: Monday, June 22, 2020
Anticipated Decision Date: July 1, 2020
Anticipated Start Date: July 15, 2020

The KSU NIH CEZID COBRE will provide investigators with support for research activities, mentoring, and access to Core Lab Services. Three pilot projects at up to \$50,000 in total direct costs starting on July 15, 2020 are anticipated. Pilot projects are for one year of initial funding and are potentially renewable for a second year, pending scientific progress and available funds.

The CEZID pilot grant program is intended to enable junior and senior investigators to generate preliminary data for submission of competitive grant applications, develop new technologies, and/or achieve other goals that will better position the applicant and institution to conduct biomedical research.

Applications must describe a pilot research project that fits well with the scientific theme of CEZID and must incorporate substantial use of one or more associated core labs at KSU.

The competition is open to all full-time faculty at any State of Kansas Regents University. Tenure-track is not required. K99/R00 holders are not eligible to lead a Pilot Project. A Pilot Project recipient cannot hold any IDEa award concurrently with a CEZID Pilot Project.

Criteria for evaluation of Pilot Project applications are as follows:

The basic criteria for NIH grant review are found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm>.

Additional CEZID pilot grant-specific review criteria include:

- Strength of the science, and the quality and clarity of its presentation
- Likelihood of the project becoming competitive for independent R01 funding
- Likelihood of getting a publishable result within the one-year time frame
- Relevance to the CEZID theme of emerging and/or zoonotic infectious diseases
- Clear, detailed plan for utilization of one or more CEZID Core Labs
- Background, experience, and career status of the applicant
- Track record of past research, research grant applications, and research funding

Questions about eligibility, program details, or the appropriate inclusion within the CEZID scientific theme should be directed to Stephanie Hober (shober@vet.k-state.edu).

CEZID Core Facilities and Director Information

Animal Model/Pathology (AMP) Core Facility

Director: Dr. Igor Morozov (imorozov@vet.k-state.edu)

The main goal of the Animal Model/Pathology (AMP) Core is to expand and enhance the capabilities of CEZID constituents to conduct their research projects and to compete for external funding through the use and incorporation of the AMP Core.

Project support will be provided through consultation and assistance with animal experimental designs; development and approval of IACUC protocols; training and technical support; coordination of animal experiments in KSU's BSL-2 and BSL-3 facilities, including space reservations, scheduling and study execution; support for gross pathological evaluations of experimentally infected animals and histopathological evaluation of collected tissue samples; and development of specific reagents such as monoclonal antibodies and hyperimmune sera. A laser capture microscope is also available.

Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) Core Facility

Director: Dr. Philip R. Hardwidge (hardwidg@vet.k-state.edu)

The overall goal of the MCB Core is to assist CEZID researchers in obtaining significant research results, allowing them to effectively compete for extramural funding. Cutting edge technological support is available for flow cytometry, DNA sequencing, and CRISPR applications. A new cell sorter will be introduced into the facility in the near future.

General Terms and Conditions of CEZID Pilot Project Awards

1. Projects must make significant use of at least one Core Lab. Prospective applicants should consult with the appropriate Core Lab Director(s) before applying. A letter of support from the Core Director reflecting the feasibility of the proposed project is recommended.
2. Funds may be used for consumable supplies, services or small laboratory hardware, but not for equipment (i.e., items costing > \$5,000). Personnel costs are allowed, but preference will be given to applications that name specific individuals who are eligible to work and ready to begin no later than July 15, 2020. Summer salary is limited to a maximum of one person-month. Personnel costs may not be used to support first-year graduate students. Travel costs are limited to essential research-related travel and must be pre-approved by the CEZID PI, Dr. Juergen A. Richt. Tuition costs are allowable as per standard institutional policies.
3. Investigators who receive CEZID pilot project support are REQUIRED to participate as fully as possible in the two annual research meetings of the CEZID Center, as well as in the seminars, workshops, and other special activities organized or sponsored by the Center.
4. A standard NIH progress report is required from each CEZID Pilot Project Leader by February 15, 2021 for inclusion in the COBRE annual report to NIH.
5. Non-tenured faculty recipients must have a CEZID-approved senior faculty Mentor.
6. All pilot project grant recipients must submit an NIH R01 or R21 proposal within the first year of the pilot project funding period or they will not be eligible for a potential second year of funding.
7. The CEZID Director may make term and budget adjustments in accordance with the intent of CEZID's Pilot grant program and NIH policies concerning scientific overlap of projects.
8. By accepting CEZID funds, awardees agree to comply with any and all requirements not already mentioned that may be imposed on CEZID by NIH or other institutional authorities.

Application process

Applications must be prepared in general accord with the NIH PHS 398 application guidelines.

Include the following sections, in this order:

1. Face page
2. Project Summary
3. Project Narrative
4. Detailed budget (Budget dates are July 15, 2020-May 31, 2021)
5. Budget justification (use continuation page)
6. NIH Biosketch of applicant
7. NIH Biosketch of mentor (if applicable)
8. Other support (for applicant only)
9. Specific Aims (1 page) – maximum of 2 aims
10. Research Strategy (6 pages) – include reference to rigor of prior research and rigor and reproducibility
11. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable) – include reference to sex as a biological variable
12. Bibliography – limit to 1 page; use complete citations in NIH style
13. Letters of support (if applicable)

Do NOT discuss a second year of funding in your application. Additional budget information will be requested at a later date if the project is considered for funding extension.

Use 11-point Arial font with one half-inch (1/2") margins on all four sides.

Figure legends in the research strategy may use 8-point Arial font.

Letters of support from Directors of Core Labs that you will use are encouraged, but not required.

Non-tenured Investigators must include a letter of support from their Mentor.

Submit applications as a single PDF document labeled as "PI LAST NAME" and "INSTITUTION" (e.g. IGNAKOWSKI JUPITER UNIVERSITY).

Submit applications online at <https://rfx.piestar.com/cezid> no later than 5 pm CDT, June 22, 2020. Contact Stephanie Hober (shober@vet.k-state.edu) if you have any questions.

If selected for funding, applicants will be required to furnish copies of all relevant compliance approvals (IACUC, IBC, IRB) prior to the release of award funds. DO NOT submit these items at this time.

Eligible CEZID Pilot Project applications will be reviewed administratively by July 1, 2020, according to the NIH criteria and the COBRE-specific criteria mentioned above.

Applications that do not comply with these review guidelines will not be reviewed.