



HARVARD

Office of Technology Development

Vir Biotechnology & Harvard University REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Submission Deadline: August 21, 2017

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BACKGROUND

Harvard's Office of Technology Development (<http://otd.harvard.edu>) is pleased to announce the establishment of a strategic research alliance between Harvard University and Vir Biotechnology. The initiative will support collaborative, PI-initiated projects aimed at the development of therapeutics to prevent or treat infectious diseases. Vir is interested in a number of different approaches, including direct-acting anti-microbials/virals, host-pathogen interactions, novel delivery mechanisms, and therapeutics for infectious diseases of high public health burden.

About Vir Biotechnology

Vir brings together cutting-edge innovations with leading scientific expertise and management to take on some of the world's most challenging infectious diseases for which solutions are non-existent or inadequate. For more information, visit www.vir.bio.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FRAMEWORK AND FUNDING

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is seeking project proposals that couple Harvard's cutting-edge science with Vir Biotechnology's resources and expertise in drug development. Specifically, Vir will provide funding and resources to develop next-generation infectious disease therapeutics.

Vir's specific interests are described below.

1. Antimicrobial Resistance

The current paradigm of developing therapeutics to treat drug resistance pathogens (DRP) is an antimicrobial arms race that will never be won. Vir is seeking novel strategies for addressing antibiotic resistance that could lead to the development of new therapeutic approaches against DRP.

2. Host-Pathogen Interactions

Understanding the complex interactions between the host and pathogen is key to finding new strategies to battle infectious disease. A classic example is the discovery of immune checkpoint inhibitors that facilitated a paradigm shift in the way cancer is treated. Vir is seeking for new insights into host-pathogen relationships that could lead to the development of vaccines, therapeutics, or diagnostics.

3. Drug Delivery

The potential of disruptive technologies such as CRISPR/Cas9, mRNA, or siRNA as prophylactic or therapeutic platforms, are limited in their use for infectious diseases by delivery challenges to their targets of interest. Vir is seeking robust and rigorous delivery technology that would allow these experimental methods to be used effectively in patients, such as applying viral vectors for vaccine delivery.

4. High Public Health Burden Infectious Diseases

Vir has a strong interest in diseases which have a significant public health impact. We are looking for small molecule or antibody leads for the treatment or prevention of HIV, chronic HBV, and respiratory pathogens, including tuberculosis.

FUNDING

Vir will provide meaningful funding, **anticipated to be up to \$1,000,000/year** (including all indirect costs), for the conduction of the research plan based on an agreed-upon budget.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This RFP involves a two-stage process for submission and review of applications. The first stage is the Pre-proposal stage. The JSC will identify promising Pre-proposals to be expanded into a Detailed Proposals in the second stage of the RFP process.

We recommend that you reach out to your OTD contact to discuss your idea for a proposal prior to preparing (or submitting) a Pre-proposal.

Proposals may contain confidential information. Harvard OTD and Vir will treat all communications as confidential.

1. Pre-proposals

Initially, a brief summary of the proposed research (“Pre-proposal”), with a one-page “Project Synopsis” will be submitted to Harvard OTD by the Harvard Principal Investigator (PI). The Pre-proposal should address and contain the following:

- 1) Project background and rationale
- 2) Description of the research objectives and any relevant preliminary results
- 3) Simple estimated budget
- 4) Principal Investigator(s)
- 5) Key project participants

2. Detailed Proposals

Vir will select several of the most promising Pre-proposals to proceed to the second stage of the application process. After review and selection of Pre-proposal finalists, Harvard PIs will be invited to work jointly with their scientific collaborators within Vir’s R&D organization in order to develop the Detailed Proposal (up to 5 pages) and budget. Detailed Proposals will be evaluated by Vir, and Vir will ultimately decide which Detailed Proposals will be funded.

TIMELINE and DEADLINES

Date	Action
August 21, 2017	Deadline for submission of Pre-Proposals to OTD
September 21, 2017	Announcement of Pre-Proposal finalists

ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS

Anyone with rights as a Principal Investigator and whose employer is Harvard University is eligible to apply. Investigators with Harvard academic appointments who are not employed by Harvard University are not eligible. Post-docs and research scientists who are interested in applying should discuss with their PI and apply jointly.

AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Project Team

A scientific Project Team will be established for each Project, which will include representatives from Vir and Harvard. The Project Teams will be led by designated project leaders from both Vir and Harvard.

Publications

Publication of the research project results will not be restricted, except that Principal Investigators will need to agree to and comply with a short pre-disclosure period for all research publications and presentations resulting from the funded work, intended to enable filing of patent applications when appropriate.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information on the program and the application process, please contact your Director of Business Development at OTD or write to:

Jessica Goodman, PhD
Director, Corporate Alliances
Email: jessica_goodman@harvard.edu
Telephone: 617-432-2039

**All proposals should be sent via email to jessica_goodman@harvard.edu
by August 21, 2017**

**Please make it clear in the subject heading of these emails that this is for submission to:
Vir – Harvard RFP**