UC DAVIS HEALTH | Center for Diagnostic Innovation

Improving Diagnosis in Health Care
Inter-Departmental Seed Grants
Request for Proposals

Why is this RFP being issued: Accurate diagnosis is central to the practice of medicine, yet diagnostic failures and errors occur. The National Academy of Medicine's 2015 landmark report entitled "Improving Diagnosis in Health Care" (The National Academies Press) identified diagnostic error as a major, unaddressed patient safety issue, noting that "*most people will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, sometimes with devastating consequences.*" The NAM's report focuses on three themes. First, it promotes focus on the diagnostic process or "diagnosis", not just diagnostic errors. Second, it defines a diagnostic error as failure to establish an accurate and/or timely explanation for the patient's problem AND to communicate that explanation to the patient. Third, it places heavy emphasis on collaboration between disciplines.

What is the RFP requesting: This RFP seeks proposals from UC Davis faculty that **advance the quality and value of care through diagnostic innovation, validation, and quality assessment and improvement**. Suggested themes include, but are not limited to:

1) Creation of new or better tests and test strategies.
2) Optimization of test utilization (particularly reducing underuse, overuse, and misuse of tests and imaging procedures).
3) Reduction of diagnostic errors (particularly reducing delays in diagnosis).
4) Integration of diagnostic data with other data such as clinical information, microbiome and other phenotypes, social determinants of health, behavioral medicine, and others.

Who Should Apply: Proposals must include Interdisciplinary teams composed of junior and senior faculty members. The team leader/PI must be from a unit contributing as a sponsoring partner (see below) in this collaborative grant program. Inclusion of trainee(s) at various stages and from diverse disciplines is encouraged.

Sponsoring partners: Departments of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Radiology, Center for Diagnostic Innovation, and made possible by generous contributions from the Departments of Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Family and Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Physiology and Membrane Biology, Radiology, Urology, Surgery, Center for Health Care Policy and Research, Clinical Translational Science Center, Comprehensive Cancer Center, and CoLab.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Grants up to $10,000 will be awarded. This RFP is made possible by generous contributions from the above participating departments and centers. The program is administered through the Center for Diagnostic Innovation co-led by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Department of Radiology (Co-Directors: Lydia Howell, M.D., Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Elizabeth Morris, M.D., Chair of Radiology).

Applications are due May 15, 2023

Review and Submission

All applications will be internally reviewed by a committee composed of representatives from each of the participating Departments and Centers.

Evaluation criteria include: Disciplinary diversity and integration of the team members including explicit roles in the collaboration; merit of the proposal relative to the domains above including expected quality improvement outcomes, reduced costs, potential for dissemination across UC Davis Health; investigator qualifications and productivity of the applicants; project feasibility; expectations for next steps. The latter must be explicit and should include any of the following strategies for sustainability including intramural support, other foundation support, NIH support, and career development awards.

Funding period: Projects should be completed in the designated 12-month period of the grant proposal. No cost-extensions will be considered with justification.

Grant funds may be budgeted for: Small equipment (less than $5,000) and supplies; core service expenses; personnel for research assistance; and other expenses necessary for the successful execution of the proposal. Exceptions (e.g., equipment costs > $5,000 if required) can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funds may NOT be used for: PI salary, travel, subscriptions, memberships, or indirect costs. The PI should designate effort even though no funds are requested. Projects that include animals or human subjects must be reviewed in accordance with UC Davis guidelines.

Please collate your application into a single PDF file according to the following order:

A. COVER PAGE: Fill in completely. The contract period shall be for one year. There is no indirect cost. Institutional approval is not required.

B. APPLICATION (**3-page maximum limit**): Including an introduction, significance, objectives, approaches, collaboration plan, expected outcomes and next steps. Font size and spacing must not exceed NIH guidelines.

C. LITERATURE CITED (2-page maximum limit)

D. BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

   1. Prepare a detailed line-item BUDGET for the contract period (not to exceed 12 months).
   2. Prepare a brief BUDGET JUSTIFICATION explaining the proposed costs.

E. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT: Provide a statement of the resources and facilities available to the applicant and relevant to the proposal.

F. TARGETED PLANNED ENROLLMENT TABLE: If the project proposal includes human subjects, the proposal must include the PHS 398 form Targeted Planned Enrollment Table to be considered.

G. HUMAN SUBJECTS (if applicable)

H. VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (if applicable)

I. NIH BIOSKETCHES: Include NIH biosketches for all Principal investigators and co-Principal investigators.

Timeline

- **Grant Submission Deadline: May 15, 2023**
- **Award Announcement: June 15, 2023**
- **Grant Funding Period: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.**

Submission: Submit as a single PDF file (UC Davis Medical Center Contact PI's Last Name Application.pdf) to: Shawn R. Jackson, srjackson@ucdavis.edu.

For more information, visit:
https://health.ucdavis.edu/diagnostic-innovation/