

## Request for Proposals Discovery Research in Prematurity

Deadline: October 31, 2017

### Summary

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) East Africa Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi-EA) is offering discovery research grants at the \$100,000, \$50,000 and \$10,000 levels for work relevant in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. East African principal investigators are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2017.

### About PTBi-EA

At PTBi-EA, our focus is on saving lives. Each year across the world, one million preterm babies die within the first 28 days of life, while over 300,000 women die in childbirth. PTBi-EA is working to reduce the number of preterm births and save the lives of preterm infants and their mothers by improving quality of care at health facilities in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

One of PTBi-EA's programmatic goals is to invest in discovery research and innovation that focuses on the prediction, prevention and management of preterm birth and its outcomes in East Africa. This research aims to deepen our scientific understanding of preterm birth and its causes, as well as inform locally relevant interventions to decrease its burden.

### Discovery RFP Details

For this RFP, we are particularly interested in laboratory and translational research relevant to prematurity; we will also consider epidemiological or technological research. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- Biomarkers to estimate gestational age or impending preterm birth
- Diagnostics/metrics to differentiate between preterm birth and SGA/IUGR
- Mechanisms of preterm birth and its risk factors (e.g., infection, inflammation, nutrition, stress, environmental toxins, etc.)
- Risk algorithms/biomarkers to predict newborn complications following preterm birth
- Biological mechanisms of action of known interventions if not well-understood (e.g., role of kangaroo care on maternal and neonatal stress)
- Novel tools to improve preterm birth prevention, clinical decision-making for care of preterm infants, and surveillance of outcomes

For an additional description of discovery research, please visit [Gates Foundation Discovery and Translational Sciences](#).

### **Grant types**

Three types of research funding are available for up to one year. Funding is not renewable. All budgets must include indirect costs.

- Innovation grants have a maximum budget up to \$100,000 in total costs. Preliminary data must be provided for the proposed work.
- Pilot grants have a maximum budget up to \$50,000 in total costs. These grants do not require preliminary data.
- Supplemental funds up to \$10,000 will also be considered for projects that specifically leverage ongoing discovery and implementation research platforms (e.g., secondary data analyses, systematic reviews, nested studies).

In line with PTBi-EA's commitment to promote capacity building and build relationships among prematurity-focused researchers, the initiative highly encourages collaborative projects and those with activities to strengthen local research capacity.

### **Eligibility**

Discovery research ideas must be submitted by an East African Principal Investigator (PI) and the proposed work must be relevant to Kenya, Uganda or Rwanda. Only one application per PI is permitted.

- If you have previously submitted a proposal to PTBi-EA, you may re-apply for this award if appropriate. However, we strongly encourage you to consider reviewers' comments/feedback.
- PTBi-EA Discovery grantees whose projects are complete/near completion are encouraged to apply. New projects from currently funded grantees will also be considered.

Please note that we will NOT consider the following types of projects:

- Qualitative research without activities to develop/test a potential intervention
- Implementation research of known, well-established or evidence-based interventions (e.g., studies to understand facilitators and barriers to scale-up of kangaroo care or other existing clinical tools)
- Basic biology without a clear pathway/explanation of how the proposed work will advance our understanding of preterm birth and/or inform potential intervention development
- Large clinical trials involving human volunteers/patients, as this is out of award scope/size

### **Submission Process and Timeline**

Please email proposals as a single PDF no later than October 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time (PST) to [Nicole.Santos@ucsf.edu](mailto:Nicole.Santos@ucsf.edu). You will receive an email confirmation of your submission.

UCSF PTBi-EA will internally review submissions and select proposals for follow-up no later than December 1, 2017. Review criteria include the following: (1) Innovation and significance; (2) Soundness of approach and feasibility; and (3) Investigator qualifications.

### **Proposal Template**

1. Applicant information (title page)
  - a. PI name
  - b. Institutional affiliation and current position
  - c. Primary email and telephone number
2. Research proposal (maximum 5 pages)
  - a. Title of project
  - b. Abstract – no more than 200 words

- c. Background, including any preliminary studies conducted
  - d. Project's overall objective and secondary objectives/aims
  - e. Methods
    - i. Study design
    - ii. Study site and population
    - iii. Data collection procedures
    - iv. Data management and analysis plan
    - v. Ethical considerations
  - f. Key activities and milestones during the operational timeframe (depicted as a Gantt chart)
  - g. Summary of budget requested and brief justification
    - i. Type of funding requested (i.e., supplemental, pilot, innovation)
    - ii. Preliminary budget with the following categories: personnel; travel; equipment (>\$5,000USD); data activities/supplies
  - h. Other information, if applicable
    - i. Brief description of key collaborators/research team and roles
    - ii. Gaps and needs identified. This includes any technical guidance or mentorship needs you have identified to support the success of this project. If you have identified someone as a mentor or technical advisor, please indicate.
3. PI CV or resume

Formatting: All pages (title page, proposal, PI CV) must be merged into a single PDF. Please include necessary references as footnotes. Use single-spaced Arial font, size 11 pt., minimum 0.5 inch for all margins.

## Contact

Please direct all inquiries to [Nicole.Santos@ucsf.edu](mailto:Nicole.Santos@ucsf.edu). If you are unsure if your idea will be considered "discovery research," please do not hesitate to reach out!