

SLU-IDBI Innovation Seed Grant Program Request for Applications

Adopted June 3, 2020

Last Revised July 22, 2025

Goal: To provide flexible seed grant funds to promote small projects likely to result in expansion of IDBI collaborations and acquisition of external funding. *These funds are intended to support specific experiments focused tightly towards improving funding chances of an external drug/biotherapeutic discovery-, development- or delivery-related grant application(s) intended to be submitted within 12 months from seed grant submission.*

Eligibility: Any IDBI senior member employed by SLU or SSM SLUCare. Non-SLU/SLUCare employees may be co-investigators but not PIs. One application per PI is permitted per review cycle, and IDBI members can be PI on only one funded application at a time. Members may be a co-investigator on more than one application per cycle, and they can serve as co-investigators on more than one funded seed grant at a time.

Funding limits and term: Award amounts are flexible but should not exceed \$10,000 except in very well-justified cases; most awards will be for less than this amount. Funds may be spent on supplies, professional services, equipment, technician and postdoc salaries, and student stipends or hourly pay. They may not be used to support travel or faculty salary. Funds must be used within 9 months of award (12 months for projects requiring new animal or human subjects approvals). Only very well justified extensions will be granted.

Submission deadlines: The last day of January, April, July, and October annually.

Review and timeline: IDBI seed grants will be reviewed by a committee drawn from the IDBI leadership team and other senior drug/biotherapeutic discovery professionals at SLU. Funding decisions will be announced within six weeks of application submission. Very brief reviews will be provided.

Format: Applications must be on the attached forms in 11 point Arial font, 0.5" margins.

Appendix material is not allowed. The components are:

- Cover sheet. Use the attached form.
- Research Proposal. Describe the background, scientific need, and proposed research, limited to **2 pages** including figures but excluding references. There is no page limit for the references.
- Funding potential. Explicitly describe how IDBI funds will advance a new collaboration and/or improve chances for external funding of a project. *Use of IDBI funds must be explicitly linked to one or more drug/biotherapeutic discovery-, development-, or delivery-related applications planned within 12 months from seed grant receipt.* The potential funder and the anticipated specific aims of the envisioned application must be listed. Specify your role on the envisioned external grant. If your role is co-PI or co-I and the PI is from an institution other than SLU, *specify percent effort or percent of the funds that will come to SLU.* Use the attached form. **2 page** limit.
- Investigators. Include an NIH-style biosketch or NSF equivalent for the PI and all faculty-level co-investigators, both internal and external to SLU.
- Letters of support. Include letters of support from all faculty-level co-investigators, both internal and external to SLU.
- Budget. Use the attached form.
- Budget justification. Fully justify all expenditures. Formal quotes are needed for funding requests involving external vendors (quotes are not included in the page limit). Faculty salary recovery is not allowed. **1 page** limit.

Submission: Submit grants by emailing a single consolidated PDF file to the IDBI Director (currently John Tavis, john.tavis@health.slu.edu), or to the IDBI Director of Business Development (Jaffre Athman, jaffre.athman@slu.edu)

Reporting requirements:

- Financial reporting will be by the recipients' departmental business manager or GO Center financial representative following standard SLU procedures.
- A copy of the specific aims page and eRS number for submitted external grants that are linked to the seed grant must be provided to John Tavis and Jaffre Athman concurrent with submission.
- Seed grant recipients must inform John Tavis and Jaffre Athman of the outcome of all successful external grants, including resubmissions, within 1 month of funding receipt. Information will be confirmed through the SLU grants tracking systems.

Repayment provision: Unspent funds will be returned to IDBI at the end of the grant period. Unspent funds can be returned earlier by notifying Jaffre Athman (jaffre.athman@slu.edu).