

## Rapid Response for Mpox Research

### Evaluation and Decision Process

This report outlines the evaluation and decision process for the Rapid Response for Mpox Research program, a partnership between D2R and MI4. The evaluation process involved:

1. An initial review to ensure applications complied with program requirements.
2. A scientific merit review conducted by external reviewers.

**Applications Reviewed: 10**

### Scientific Merit Review

Three external reviewers assessed all ten applications using the following criteria:

1. Originality and Innovation (20 points)
2. Research Plan Feasibility (20 points)
3. Research Team Quality and Contributions (20 points)

The evaluations were compiled, the average total scores were calculated and the applications ranked. There was clear distinction in the average scores, separating the top five applications from the bottom five.

### Funding Decision

The MI4 and D2R teams, along with scientific leadership, reviewed the evaluation results and budgets. At this stage, the process was anonymous, and the identities of the applicants were not disclosed. Funding was recommended for the top five applications, each with a budget of \$100,000, as requested.