

MI4 Emerging Threats Grant

1. Background and Description of Funding Opportunity

1.1. Background

The overarching goal of the McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity (MI4) is to foster interdisciplinary research to discover, develop and implement innovative solutions for infectious and immune threats to human health. The Emerging Threats Grant (ETG) program provides one-time funding for new emergent infectious and immune threats to human health, as identified by the MI4 Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The current call for proposals is to address the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak that emerged in Wuhan, China in January 2020, and which is now spreading worldwide.

The MI4 SAC has approved a special Request for Proposal (RFP) for research that addresses this outbreak. There will be one ETG funded.

1.2. Key Dates

- MI4 ETG launch — January 24, 2020
- ETG applications due on February 14, 2020
- ETG grant announcement February 20, 2020
- Funding begins March 1, 2020

2. Emerging Threats Grant - Funding Available and Funding Cycles

2.1. Objectives of the SFG Program

To rapidly establish research capacity for the 2019-nCoV outbreak

2.2. Scope

The ETG program will support innovative approaches that address the 2019-nCoV outbreak. Examples include, but are not limited to: fundamental immunology, virology, epidemiology and surveillance or social science.

2.3. Team composition

The ETG program is funded by MI4 to a single investigator and her/his collaborative team. It can be held at any McGill University Department or McGill University-affiliated Research institute. **No subcontracts to investigators outside McGill University and its affiliated institutions are permitted.**

2.4. Eligibility

The Principal Investigators must meet the conditions of University Researcher or Clinical University Researcher as defined by the Fonds de recherche du Québec. In accordance with the appropriate RI-MUHC and McGill policies, a researcher devotes more than 50% time to research and teaching.

2.5. Available funds

One grant of \$100,000.

2.6. Grant term

ETG awards will be for a period of 12 months and will be non-renewable. Unspent funds must be returned to MI4 at the end of this period.



3. Submission Deadline

The ETG is due by February 14, 2020 11:59 Eastern Time. Proposal is to be sent as a PDF to grantsmcgilli4.med@mcgill.ca

4. Additional Information

If additional information is required to complete the ETG submission, please contact admincoordmcgilli4.med@mcgill.ca . Generally, a response will be provided within 1 business day

5. ETG Submission Package

Free-Form Project Description (2-pages max to cover 5.1 to 5.3, extra material will not be reviewed).

Use the same headers for each section as shown below and respect the required page length per section.

5.1 Project Information

5.1.1 Project Title

5.1.2 Lay Summary

5.1.3 Collaborators

5.2 Project Description

5.2.1 Research Rationale

Explain the research question and concept behind the research and justify the novelty of your idea. State how your research will help to address coronavirus outbreaks.

5.2.2 Background research (last 5 years)

Briefly summarize previous work leading up to the proposed project. Preliminary data is not required and projects for which extensive preliminary data is available should be submitted to traditional granting agencies.

5.2.3 Proposed research activities

- Briefly, describe the proposed study and timeline for the proposed experiments. Employ language that is comprehensible to an interdisciplinary scientific audience.
- Describe the research outputs and their impact in the context of informing and controlling coronavirus infections and outbreaks, provide metrics where possible. Avoid general phrases such as new knowledge, better understanding, or highly qualified personnel (HQP) training.

5.3 Budget

Provide a brief budget over the 12-month period (See Section 7 - Eligible Costs)



5.4 References (1 page max)

5.5 CVs

Using the NIH Bio-Sketch format (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>), attach to the main package the CV of the applicant and a maximum of two other key project team members. Please limit the CV to 5 pages and only PDF format is acceptable.

6. Submission Format and Procedure

The free form document and the CVs must adhere to the following format:

- Page size: 8½ x 11 inches
- Margins: no less than 2.54 cm (1 inch) on all sides
- Font: Times New Roman (no smaller than 12 pts) or Arial (no smaller than 11 pts).
- Assemble the Free-Form and CVs into PDF package with bookmarks; each page to be consecutively numbered.
- Graphs and illustrations may be included, and may be in colour if they are of high enough quality to be legible upon printing, but will count as part of the set page limits for each section
- If the Free-Form Project Description exceeds the maximum page limit it will not be reviewed.

7. Eligible Costs

Funds for successful ETG awards will be disbursed in one installment.

Eligible Costs: Only the following are eligible costs:

- Salary support for trainees and research personnel (include benefits)
- Materials and supplies (consumables).
- Core or platform fees for project related samples or data.
- Data evaluation costs by appropriate research experts.
- Small equipment up to \$5000 total.
- Project related travel up to \$1500.

Overhead: There is no overhead component to the ETG award. All the awarded funds are to be directed towards eligible costs.

8. Review

8.1. Assessment Criteria

ETG submissions will be evaluated according the following equal-weighted assessment criteria:

- Originality and innovation of the proposed research to understand and address coronavirus outbreaks
- Well-defined research outputs, and metrics, appropriate for the career stage of the investigator.
- Expertise of the PI, and the Project Team

8.2. Review Process and Funding Approval Time Frame

The SAC will rapidly evaluate and rank the submissions according to the Assessment Criteria (Section 8.1). The SAC will provide recommendations regarding the top ranked submissions.

MI4 will review the recommendations of the SAC, and approve the final list of awards.

Conflict of Interest (COI): MI4 will adopt a COI policy to ensure that anyone participating in the review process does not have a COI. Any person declaring a COI, or a potential COI, will be required to recuse themselves from the review process. COIs will be defined using the CIHR definition that can be found at: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/46378.html>.

9. Approval Agreement

MI4 will contact the PI with the funding decision. A fund release agreement will be sent to the awarded PI outlining the terms and conditions of the award. Awardees are asked to sign and return the award agreement as a proof that they accept the award and its terms. Documentation of appropriate biohazard, radioactive, animal use and ethics approvals will be required for the use of funds.

10. Reporting Requirements and Evaluation of Progress

All approved ETG awards will be required to provide a final report (template format) at the end of the one-year funding period.