

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Funding for Research Symposia between Cornell University Ithaca, Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell Tech

Goals and Background

The recently established Academic Integration Initiative aims to promote collaborations between the Cornell Ithaca campus and our campuses in New York City with the goal of taking discovery at Cornell to the next level of eminence. It is recognized that the strength and impact of discovery at Weill Cornell would be augmented by drawing on the outstanding and diverse work of Cornell colleagues based in Ithaca and Roosevelt Island. Similarly, the science ongoing at Weill Cornell, with its orientation towards discoveries and translation related to human health and disease, has great potential to bolster investigation by faculty in Ithaca and Cornell Tech through collaborative efforts. Fostering interactions between research units will leverage expertise on the three campuses to align scientific and educational activities of the greater Cornell community, resulting in improved research and educational opportunities. Creating synergies among investigators will also enable laboratories to transform individual projects to larger programs with increased impact and visibility.

Through the support of Research Symposia between the campuses, the Academic Integration Initiative aims to: 1) better inform our research community (both faculty and trainees) about the diverse research efforts ongoing on the Ithaca and NYC campuses; 2) stimulate discussions about novel cross-campus collaborations by enabling face-to-face dialogue; and 3) kindle new and expanded research collaborations between the campuses.

Eligibility Requirements

- Each proposed symposium must be led by at least one co-organizer from each campus (Ithaca and WCM)
- Symposia should tackle a major area of research interest across the campuses
- There must be balanced participation from both Ithaca and WCM
- There should be significant number of trainees (postdoctoral fellows and students) participating
- The event should be day and a half long—involving one overnight stay for the visiting scientists—and must consist of two parts: 1) Symposium and an ensuing poster session open to faculty and trainees at all three campuses with symposium presentations broadcast via livestream; and 2) Closed sessions consisting of focused working group (WG) meetings following the public symposium. The WGs should brainstorm opportunities for novel and/or expanded cross-campus research collaborations in the area of the symposium and, if possible, how these could lead to cross-campus program grant applications.

Deadlines and timelines

- RFA release: August 24, 2017
- Applications due: November 30, 2017
- Notification: December 15, 2017
- Symposia timing: Spring and Fall 2018

Budget

Up to \$25,000 will be provided per Symposium to support meeting-related expenses including but not limited to travel, accommodation, meals, meeting rooms and audiovisual expenses. For further details, please consult the [budget template](#).

Submission Process

Submissions should contain the following information:

1. Cover Letter (1-2 pages) co-signed by all of the symposium Co-organizers, providing a brief background for the proposed symposium, highlighting the suitability of the co-organizers to lead this effort, and addressing specifically how this event fulfills the goals of the Cross-Campus Research Symposia outlined in the “selection criteria” section below.
2. Detailed agenda of the proposed symposium, including sessions with speakers and titles, and associated working groups topics. The attached [agenda template](#) must be used and should be adjusted appropriately.
3. Budget – A complete budget, using the provided [budget template](#), must be provided. Brief explanations, as noted on the template, should be included for the various budget categories.
4. Biosketches for all Symposium Co-Organizers

Submit the above items in the order listed as a single pdf file using the following naming convention: PI last name-first initial_RS.pdf (Example: Smith-J_RS.pdf). Margins should be at least one inch and font size not less than 11 point. **All applications should be submitted electronically via the following [site](#).**

Please note: Because the application submission site is hosted through WCM and a WCM ID is required for log-in, we ask that the WCM co-organizer of the symposium submit the application on behalf of the entire team, including its Cornell Ithaca members. Only one application per symposium/team will be accepted.

Selection Criteria

- Leverages the strengths of the campuses
- Engages faculty at the campuses most broadly
- Has the potential to create clear synergies and follow-on interactions, collaborations, and novel joint projects stemming from the symposium
- Creatively bridges divergent scientific niches that have either not traditionally come together or have not done so effectively
- Engages the trainees, postdoctoral fellows and students, across the campuses
- Focuses on emerging areas of science that constitute high priority funding areas for the NIH and other federal funders
- Has a potential to lead to cross-campus program grant applications
- Tech Campus participation in the symposium would significantly strengthen an application.

It is anticipated that two symposia will be funded through this RFA. One will be held in the spring and one in the fall of 2018.

Evaluation of progress

Six months after the symposium date, the Co-organizers will be required to submit a 1-page report of the outcome of the Symposium. A report template will be provided.

Inquiries

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