

## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **Funding for Research Symposia among**

### **Cornell University Ithaca, Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell Tech**

#### **Goals and Background**

The cross-campus Academic Integration Initiative aims to advance the research and discovery efforts across the Cornell community by promoting and enhancing collaborations between the Cornell Ithaca campus, and the Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) and Cornell Tech campuses in New York City. By drawing on the outstanding and diverse work of Cornell colleagues based in Ithaca and New York City, the strength and impact of research across Cornell will be elevated to the next level of eminence. For instance, 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. Similarly, research at Weill Cornell will be enhanced through partnership with Ithaca and Roosevelt Island colleagues across a broad range of disciplines. Fostering such collaborative interactions between research units will leverage expertise across the three campuses to align the scientific and educational activities of the greater Cornell community, resulting in improved research and educational opportunities. Creating synergies among Cornell investigators will also enable individual projects to transform into 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 the Cornell research community (both faculty and trainees) about the diverse ongoing research efforts on the Ithaca and NYC campuses; 2) stimulate discussions about novel cross-campus collaborations by enabling face-to-face interactions; 3) kindle new and expanded research collaborations among the campuses; 4) identify tangible next steps towards building integrated research programs; and 5) help faculty prepare to respond to future internal RFAs for collaborative research grants. To date, four such Research Symposia have been held, and each was successful in achieving these goals.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Each proposed symposium must be led by at least one co-organizer from Ithaca and one from WCM. A co-organizer from Cornell Tech, where appropriate is welcome
- Symposia should tackle a major research area of interest across campuses
- There must be balanced participation from both Ithaca and WCM. Participation by Cornell Tech faculty is encouraged
- There should be significant trainee (postdoctoral fellows and students) participation
- The event should be a day and a half long—involving one overnight stay for the visiting participants—and must consist of two parts:
  - 1) Symposium and an ensuing poster session open to faculty and trainees at all three campuses; 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

Please note: For the current RFA, we will only accept proposals for symposia not previously funded through the Academic Integration Office. We anticipate that starting next year, we will invite proposals from groups previously awarded symposia grants to apply for another round of support.

### **Deadlines and timelines**

- RFA release: August 8, 2018
- Application deadline: November 30, 2018
- Notification: December 31, 2018
- Symposia timing: Spring and Fall 2019

### **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 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 for the proposed symposium, including sessions with speakers and titles, and associated working groups topics. The [agenda template](#) must be used and should be adjusted appropriately
3. A complete budget, using the [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: SmithJ\_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 and Cornell Tech members. Only one application per symposium/team will be accepted.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Leverages the strengths of the campuses
- Engages faculty at the campuses 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 the potential to lead to cross-campus program grant applications
- Tech Campus participation in the symposium would strengthen an application

It is anticipated that up to four Research Symposia will be funded through this RFA to be held in the spring and fall of 2019.

### **Evaluation of Progress**

Six months after the symposium date, the co-organizers will be required to submit a one-page report on the outcome of the symposium. A report template will be provided.

### **Inquiries**

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