

VUMC Limited Submission Opportunity

NIH Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1- Clinical Trial Optional)

Applications due March 7, 2024

VUMC: These instructions are for VUMC investigators. VU investigators should apply through [InfoReady](#) and address any questions to VU-LSO@vanderbilt.edu.

VUMC may submit two proposals to the May 2024 cycle of the [NIH Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams \(RM1\)](#).

This program is designed to support highly integrated **research teams of three to six PD/PIs** to address **ambitious and challenging research questions that are important for the mission of National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)** and are beyond the scope of an individual or a few investigators. Collaborative program teams are expected to accomplish goals that require considerable synergy and managed team interactions. Project goals should not be achievable with a collection of individual efforts or projects. Teams are encouraged to consider far-reaching objectives that will produce major advances in their fields. While applications may request research program budgets of up to \$1.5 million direct costs per year, it is anticipated that most awards will be between \$700,000-\$900,000 direct costs.

Features of successful applications include:

- Each PD/PI is committed to team science and willing to devote a major part of their research effort to the team project.
- Achieving the goal(s) requires a team approach.
- Each biological question posed requires a cohesive team with an integrated approach.
- A team management structure is developed for achieving program goals.

NIGMS recognizes that diverse teams working together and capitalizing on innovative ideas and distinct perspectives outperform homogeneous teams. There are many benefits that flow from a diverse scientific workforce, including fostering scientific innovation, enhancing global competitiveness, contributing to robust learning environments, improving the quality of the research, advancing the likelihood that underserved populations participate in, and benefit from, research and enhancing public trust. To support the best science, NIGMS encourages inclusivity in research. Examples of structures that promote diverse perspectives include but are not limited to:

- Engagement from different types of institutions and organizations (e.g., research-intensive, undergraduate-focused, minority-serving, community-based).
- Individual applications and partnerships that enhance geographic and regional engagement.

- Investigators and teams composed of researchers at different career stages.
- Participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including groups traditionally underrepresented in the biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research workforce (see [NOT-OD-20-031](#)), such as underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, those with disabilities, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and women.
- Project-based opportunities to benefit early- and mid-career investigators.

Eligibility:

Successful Collaborative Program Grant applications will bring together scientists to apply complementary approaches to work on an important and well-defined problem. Applications may address any area of science within the [NIGMS mission](#), which is to support generalizable, foundational basic research that increases understanding of biological processes at a range of levels, from molecules and cells, to tissues, whole organisms, and populations. NIGMS also supports research in a limited number of clinical areas that affect multiple organ systems (see [here](#) for scientific areas supported by NIGMS).

Truly new interdisciplinary ideas for approaching significant biological problems are encouraged. Applications that bridge the research interests of more than one NIGMS division are also encouraged, but must remain within the scope of the NIGMS mission. Consultation with NIGMS staff prior to preparing an application is strongly encouraged.

We recommend that applicants review the RFA in detail to review the research areas that are within the NIGMS mission. Applications that focus solely on a specific organ or disease state and that are within the mission areas of other NIH Institutes and Centers are not appropriate for this FOA. Applications that employ specific cells or tissues to address a fundamental biomedical question are appropriate.

Applications that are mainly focused on the creation, expansion, and/or maintenance of community resources, creation of new technologies or infrastructure development are not appropriate for this FOA.

See [the program announcement](#) for more information.

Internal Application Process:

Anyone interested in being considered to submit VUMC's proposal must submit the following (in a single PDF) to LSO@vanderbilt.edu by **5 p.m. on March 7, 2024:**

- Brief project description including summary budget and role of each PI and their relevant qualifications (2 page max);
- Letter of support from department chair/center director;
- NIH Biosketch for all PIs

Full applications are due to NIH by May 29, with an LOI requested 30 days prior. Any questions about this opportunity or the LSO process may be directed to LSO@vanderbilt.edu.