

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR THE NIH INTRAMURAL-TO-INDIA (I-to-I) PROGRAM  
UNDER THE U.S.-INDIA COLLABORATION ON PREVENTION OF  
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND HIV/AIDS**

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2006, the Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) signed a Joint Statement for Collaboration on Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS to promote cooperative research and research training focused on HIV/AIDS.

The Joint Statement calls for the development of strategic plans for collaboration and to facilitate the expedited review and clearance of proposed bilateral projects. Both the United States of America and India have earmarked funds to support joint research and training activities pursued under this program. The lead U.S. agency identified to implement activities under this program is the HHS National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the lead Indian agency is the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

Recognizing NIH's broad intramural expertise in HIV/AIDS research, the NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR) piloted the NIH Intramural-to-India (I-to-I) Program to promote collaborations between NIH intramural scientists and co-investigators in Indian research institutions. The I-to-I Program was launched in fiscal year (FY) 2007 to support one-year pilot projects from NIH intramural scientists to enhance existing or initiate collaborative research projects with investigators in Indian research institutions.

**DESCRIPTION:**

For FY 2008, the I-to-I Program is soliciting collaborative research projects in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention. Proposals that include a short-term scientist exchange are encouraged. Each proposal can request support for a maximum of \$100,000 per year. Support will be for a maximum of two years. We anticipate that approximately 10 awards will be supported.

Justification for the short-term scientific exchange should be provided, clearly outlining the need for such an exchange in the context of the research objectives proposed. The short-term scientist exchange proposal must be a component of the proposed research project, and total costs for the research and scientific exchange components should not exceed \$100,000. A stand alone short-term scientist exchange proposal without a research proposal will not be accepted.

The short-term-scientist exchange component can not be used to support Indian researchers who are already in an NIH intramural laboratory or who have been previously identified for support from other sources. The exchange may be from one week to six months in duration. (Note: This program provides support only for the Indian

researcher; no support will be provided for family members, financial or documentary.) NIH intramural scientists are eligible for short-term visits under this Call for Proposal and are limited to one month in duration.

**FOCUS:**

Projects being proposed must relate to the NIH and Indian laboratories' current areas of interest. The program will give highest priority to collaborative projects that focus on research and research training related to HIV/AIDS prevention research, including research on microbicides, as described in the U.S.-India Bilateral Collaborative Research Partnerships (CRP) on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS (RFA-AI-07-031).

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-07-031.html>

Specific areas of interest include:

- Infectious Diseases and HIV/AIDS Co-morbidities
- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Epidemiology (Behavioral and Population)
- Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- Drug Use and Abuse
- Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (MTCT)

**WHO CAN APPLY:**

NIH intramural investigators who are currently collaborating with an Indian investigator or who would like to develop a new collaboration with an investigator from an Indian institution are eligible.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FY 2008 PROPOSALS:**

Proposals are to be submitted electronically as a PDF attachment to:

Ms. Gail Wolfson  
Office of AIDS Research  
[wolfsong@mail.nih.gov](mailto:wolfsong@mail.nih.gov)

Proposals submitted should include a letter or email affirming the endorsement/approval of the IC Scientific Director or Designee.

**Research proposals submitted by the NIH intramural investigator must contain the following:**

- Abstract of the project that describes the research, need, and significance of the proposed study.
- Research plan that includes a description of the project, monitoring plans if required, and expected outcomes. The research described must be a new initiative.

- **Research proposal should not exceed five pages; this limit does not include the abstract, references, collaboration plan, or the budget.**
- Letter from the Indian collaborator describing his/her activities and specific role in the project.
- Biosketch from the Principal Investigator (PI) and Indian Co-PI.
- **Collaboration Plan.** Information describing any previous collaborations with the Indian investigator and:
  - Introduction on how this proposal was stimulated as a result of the availability of this special program and how this collaboration could evolve into a longer lasting collaboration or how it will aid in developing new collaborations;
  - Description of the added-value synergy that the collaborative partnership aims to incur during the period of the award;
  - Description of the responsibilities of the NIH intramural investigator and the Indian collaborator; and
  - Description of technology transfer, if appropriate.

**Short-term scientist exchange proposal also must include** (Please note: The short-term scientist exchange proposal must be a component of the proposed research project. A stand alone short-term scientist exchange proposal without a research proposal will not be accepted.):

- Description of the visit and how it will promote or enhance collaborations between the NIH intramural laboratory and the Indian counterpart.
- A letter of application and a one- to three-page description of the collaborative research project to be undertaken in the sponsor's laboratory, specifying what is to be accomplished and indicating tentative dates for the visit.
- A letter of invitation from the chief of the hosting laboratory.
- When the exchange is for an Indian investigator to come to an NIH intramural laboratory, the visit may be from one week to six months in duration.
  - The NIH will provide Indian researchers accepted into this program with the necessary resources to cover travel, per diem, and laboratory supplies and reagents while at the NIH laboratory.
    - **Salary support would be provided by the Indian participant's home institution.**
    - The program provides health insurance during the short-term visit. Coverage is for the awardees only and does not cover pre-existing conditions.
    - The Indian investigator will receive a letter from NIH with which to apply for a visa at the American Embassy or Consulate in India.
  - Indian investigators must include a letter of assurance by the candidate that he/she will return to India at the end of the exchange.

- The candidates must have a minimum of one year postdoctoral experience in HIV/AIDS-related research.
- Candidates also must be proficient in spoken and written English.
- NIH intramural scientists also can participate in the short-term scientist exchange component; however, this exchange may not exceed one month.
  - **The NIH scientist can not receive salary or per diem from the Indian government.**
  - The Indian laboratory would provide the resources to cover supplies and reagents for the NIH intramural investigator while in the Indian laboratory.

### **BUDGET:**

- **Research proposal:** Budget must include details for equipment, supplies, and services.
  - Equipment purchase must not exceed \$25,000 of the \$100K award.
- **Short-term scientist exchange:** Budget must include details of costs associated with the short-term scientist exchange; these must be part of the \$100K award.
  - A detailed budget (in Rupees) describing the laboratory costs (e.g., reagents and supplies) associated with an NIH intramural scientist visiting an Indian laboratory must be included separately. This budget will be evaluated by the U.S.-India Joint Working Group and ICMR for possible support.

### **REVIEW:**

All applications will undergo review by a small ad hoc expert panel with the appropriate expertise in HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Highest priority will be given to proposals focused on research and research training projects in HIV/AIDS prevention, as described in RFA-AI-07-031.

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Scientific merit and quality.
- Feasibility of the proposal.
- Relevance to the scope and intent of the U.S.-India Collaborative Research Program.
- Strength of existing or proposed collaboration.
- Impact on developing a new area for collaboration.
- Likelihood that the proposed project will achieve its proposed goal(s).
- Applicant's past scientific record, as described in the Biosketch.
- Appropriateness of the total budget (i.e., research and short-term scientist exchange) in accomplishing the research collaboration.

After the initial NIH review, applications will be reviewed by a panel of ICMR scientists and the U.S.-India Joint Working Group for this program. Successful applicants will be

notified by the Office of AIDS Research, following that review. At that time, some applicants also may need to provide additional information or clarification, if requested by reviewers.

Awardees will be required to submit a two-page Summary Report of the outcomes of the proposal to the Office of AIDS Research within 90 days after completion of the project.

**TIME LINE:**

Proposal Submission Deadline:	<b>March 17, 2008</b>
Review	April-May 2008
Award Notification:	June 2008

**INQUIRIES:**

Direct inquiries regarding the I-to-I Program to:

Geraldina Dominguez, Ph.D.  
Program Director  
Office of AIDS Malignancy Program  
National Cancer Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
6120 Executive Boulevard, Room 6112, MSC 7204  
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