BACKGROUND

The purpose of the IHII Pilot Grant Program is to stimulate the development of new research initiatives in strategic areas of infectious disease and immunology designed to exploit new opportunities and strengthen overall IHII programs and goals. For FY11, we are targeting proposals that have a very high probability of attracting extramural funding. Proposals that focus on one of the following strategic areas are especially encouraged: 1) human immunology; 2) epidemiology of infectious diseases, and; 3) international collaborative research on tropical and emerging diseases.

Any IHII faculty member is eligible to apply, and investigators with strong track records of external funding as well as junior faculty without major start-up resources are especially encouraged. Proposals outside of the 3 strategic areas listed above will also be considered if there is a strong rationale explaining how the project will strengthen the overall IHII mission and goals, not just the applicant’s research program.

Reviewers will be asked to address the strengths and weakness of the proposal, as well as the likelihood that successful completion of the proposed project will advance the IHII’s goals and will lead to new extramural grant support. Reviewers will specifically be asked to comment in the following categories:

Significance: Does the study address the strategic goals of the IHII? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the overall UTMB infectious disease and immunology research program?

Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

Investigator: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?

Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

Grants may be awarded for up to $50,000 per year. While a project can be supported for a total of 2 years, the second year funding will be contingent upon submission of an acceptable progress report that contains the Specific Aims, Significance, Background, and Preliminary Data sections of a new grant proposal. If extramural funding is obtained for the same project in excess of the amount of the award during the period of IHII support, the unexpended funds will be returned to the IHII for reallocation. An investigator may hold only one IHII Pilot Research Grant at a time. A recipient of an IHII Pilot Research Grant may reapply only upon termination of his/her existing Pilot Research Grant. Grantees and mentors agree by acceptance of funding to acknowledge IHII financial support in presentations or publications that result from the funded work.

PILOT GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Grant Preparation:

Applicants should complete the following forms in the order listed (copies of all PHS 398 forms are available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html):

- PHS 398 Form Page 1 – Face Page
- PHS 398 Form Page 2 – Abstract and Performance Site(s)
- PHS 398 Form Page 3 – Table of Contents
- PHS 398 Form Page 4 – Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period
- PHS 398 Form Page 5 – Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period
- PHS 398 Continuation pages containing the following information:
  1. A description of how the proposed project will strengthen one of the 3 strategic research areas listed above, or otherwise will benefit the overall UTMB infectious disease and immunology research program. This section should not exceed ½ page.
2. A description of how IHII support will lead to new extramural grant support. This section should not exceed ½ page.

3. The proposed research plan: Organize the research plan to answer these questions. (a) What do you intend to do? (Specific Aims) (b) Why is the work important? (Significance); what has already been done? (Background) (c) How are you going to do the work/interpret the results? (Experimental Approach and Methods). Please include a statement of the relevance of the proposed project to the goals of the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development. **This section should not exceed 2 pages.**

The following section should not exceed seven pages.

1. A list of cited literature: This section is not considered in page limitations.

2. PHS 398 Biographical Sketch: A current 4 page NIH-style biographical sketch including other support information should be included for the principal investigator and all co-investigators. Junior investigators should also list start-up funds available for their research program.

3. OSP proposal routing form: An Office of Sponsored Programs Proposal Routing form must accompany all intramural research grant applications (copies of this form are available at the OSP web page: [http://research.utmb.edu/osp/forms.shtm](http://research.utmb.edu/osp/forms.shtm))

Grant Submission: Please submit the original grant application, four copies, and an electronic version as a single PDF file to:

IHII Pilot Research Grant Committee  
C/O Deborah James  
6.200 Galveston National Laboratory, Route 0610

Direct inquiries about the preparation of your application to Andrew McNees, PhD at extension 66506 or via email (amcnees@utmb.edu).

Applications are due by **October 1st, 2010 9am**. While investigators may submit more than one application for consideration in a single round of competition, no more than one grant will be awarded to an investigator in a given round.

**Awards will be made in accordance with the UTMB fiscal calendar year.**