



Microbiome Venture Fund: Call For Proposals

The Microbiome Venture Fund is an opportunity for all Vanderbilt faculty and students to apply for venture funding of a project that connects microbiome scholarship with diverse topics and investigators. Projects could span research, education, outreach, ethics, law, policy development, among others.

We welcome proposals that (i) stimulate new microbiome scholarship for the applicants, (ii) support the development of team collaborations at various career stages across disciplines or institutes, and (iii) may subsequently seed a larger project. Collaborations between faculty and undergraduate students across multiple schools are especially encouraged and should be made clear if applicable. Likewise encouraged are projects that can re-purpose the unique diagnostic samples (human specimens and/or isolated microbes) originating from the VUMC Clinical Laboratory. The amount of funding is \$3000 or less and must be used by March 1, 2020.

How to apply for Microbiome Venture Funding

By July 31, 2019 send a brief proposal limited to one page (excluding references) to Seth Bordenstein (s.bordenstein@vanderbilt.edu) that includes (i) specific goals and hypotheses, (ii) team membership across schools and career levels, (iii) project plan, (iv) anticipated results, and (v) a very brief budget. All proposals will be evaluated by a Trans-Institutional Programs Committee based on the criteria described in this call.

Criteria for evaluation:

- What is the goal/hypothesis? Is it a new or existing area of scholarship for the lab or Vanderbilt?
- Is there a team that connects different career stages and/or groups beyond the life sciences (e.g., philosophy, law, art, engineering, chemistry, etc.)?
- Have funding agencies and opportunities been identified that will subsequently lead to a larger project?
- Are undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral students involved?

Applicants are encouraged to note inclusivity and diversity, inviting participation from underrepresented groups. Awardees must (i) present at the Microbiome Monthly Meeting on their plans, (ii) submit a half page final report on March 1, 2020 noting project outcomes, presentations, personnel, manuscripts, and related grants, and (iii) acknowledge VMI/VI4/IPMDI in presentations and publications stemming from the funded activities.

Co-sponsors: **Initiative for Personalized Microbial Discovery and Innovation (IPMDI)**

Vanderbilt Institute for Infection, Immunology, and Inflammation (VI4)

Vanderbilt Microbiome Initiative (VMI)