

Call for Proposals
Infectious Diseases and COVID-19:
Addressing Challenges to Public Health and Society Through Global Collaboration
Seed Grants: \$25,000 - \$50,000
Deadline: June 1, 2020

Overview

The McDonnell International Scholars Academy seeks to spur collaborative research on issues related to public health challenges that stem from infectious diseases, like COVID-19, and the long-term societal impact and lessons of the current pandemic. We are inviting WashU faculty in any academic discipline to submit proposals in the focus areas described below. As the effects of infectious diseases cross country borders, many of these issues are best addressed in collaboration with international partners. The McDonnell Academy's network of premier partner universities can help to facilitate joint research. Proposed projects must include an international collaborator from any of the [McDonnell Academy's partner universities](#), although they can include other institutions as well. Preference will be given to projects that also foster collaborations across disciplines.

Funding

Seed grants are available to support faculty research responsive to this call. We anticipate funding up to three proposals at **\$50,000** each and/or up to five proposals at **\$25,000** per one year.

Focus areas

1. Public health issues stemming from infectious diseases

We intend to fund projects addressing public health policies and issues that inform responses to infectious diseases, like COVID-19. While critical NIH-funded efforts to develop diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines are underway, it is equally important to focus attention on evidence-based public health policies. We are specifically interested in policy design and implementation related to some of the key issues arising from the current outbreak, such as: testing, surveillance, resource allocation, sourcing of medicines and medical equipment, healthcare infrastructure, the logistics of the response, travel restrictions and transportation, decision-making at the local, national and international levels, global coordination and response systems. These issues are critical to building capacity to prevent, detect, and contain future outbreaks.

2. Lasting societal impact of COVID-19 and lessons for future pandemics

While we are still in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, its long-term effects on many facets of our lives may be felt for years to come. We are seeking proposals that investigate how the current global crisis will reshape society in lasting ways and what broader lessons we can draw for the future effects of infectious diseases that cross international borders. Projects could explore a broad range of topics, such as: the social fault lines of the pandemic, cultural and psychological dimensions, the economic and political fallout, effects on supply chains, workforce and business practices, stigma, social trust, mental health, gendered impacts of the pandemic, the effects on education, digital technologies, the role of international institutions, legal and ethical challenges, or other disruptions resulting from the outbreak.

Eligibility

- The principal investigator must have a faculty appointment at Washington University in St. Louis.
- Research projects must include an international faculty collaborator from any of the McDonnell Academy's [partner institutions](#). Proposals can include collaborators from other partners in the US and across the world.

Deadline & Requirements

All proposals must be submitted by email to global@wustl.edu by noon (CST) on **Monday, June 1st 2020** with "Proposal Submission" in the subject line. Decisions will be made by mid-June 2020, and awards will be available for immediate use.

Proposals must be a single PDF or word file including the following:

- **Applicant information:** principal investigator's name, academic title, school, and email.
- **International collaborator's information:** name, academic title, partner institution, and email.
- **Title and abstract:** synopsis for a lay audience, limited to 150 words.
- **Description:** 1,000 words max, specifying how the project addresses one of the two focus areas.
- **Budget:** dollar amount for which you are applying and how the funds will be used.

About the McDonnell Academy

Since its founding in 2005, the McDonnell International Scholars Academy has forged partnerships with more than thirty premier research universities around the world. The Academy has a dual mission. First, we recruit top scholars from partner universities and mentor them as they pursue graduate and professional degrees at Washington University, preparing them to become future global leaders. Second, we leverage the Academy's international partnership network to incubate new ideas and foster collaborative research across countries and disciplines.

For more information: mcdonnell.wustl.edu

Contact

Questions about this Call for Proposals can be directed to Roumy Theunissen at rtheunissen@wustl.edu.