

University of Rochester Medical Center Clinical and Translational Science Institute (UR CTSI)
Request for Applications
COVID-19 Biobank
For Projects Beginning March 1, 2021

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The COVID-19 Biobank, or “Biobank”, is a collection of thousands of stored samples from hospitalized COVID-19 positive participants. The Biobank was created to aid investigators doing COVID-19 research by distributing biosamples collected from people with COVID-19 to the research community. The purpose of this RFA is to solicit applications from the University of Rochester research community to obtain Biobank samples for use in research.

THE BIOBANK

Description of the banked samples and available clinical data are available [here](#).

OBJECTIVES

RFAs are sought from applicants with innovative projects that require Biobank samples to answer important open questions in COVID research.

Examples of research topics appropriate for this RFA include:

- Monitoring changes in serum concentrations of inflammation markers
- Characteristics of anti-COVID antibodies present in patient serum over time
- Presence of novel biomarkers correlating with COVID severity

CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Successful applicants will receive biosamples and associated clinical data.
- No funds will be provided by the CTSI
- All costs to transfer samples will be paid by the CTSI.
- Applications from collaborative groups to conduct translational studies will be prioritized.
- Priority will be placed on those projects anticipating rapid funding and publications.

ELIGIBILITY

One of the members of the applying team must have a faculty appointment at the University of Rochester. This team member will be the contact PI for the project. UR CTSI welcomes RFAs from all qualified individuals and encourages RFAs from persons with disabilities, women, and members of minority groups underrepresented in the sciences.

RFA

Prospective applicants should submit a NIH style biosketch and a brief RFA (1 page maximum excluding references) to researchhelp@urmc.rochester.edu by 5:00PM EST on Monday, February 1, 2021. Applicants will be notified if they have been approved to obtain biosamples according to the timeline below.

RFA must include the following information:

- Biosamples requested
- Specific research question(s) being investigated
- Background
- Research plan
- Statement of whether the applicant has funding to complete the study, and if not, the plan to obtain funding
- Plans for submitting a future grant
- References cited

DEADLINES

RFA release date

January 4, 2021

RFA deadline

February 1, 2021

Response to applicants

February 15, 2021

Earliest anticipated receipt of samples

March 1, 2021

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by the Biobank Executive Committee for:

- Novelty of research question
- Originality
- [Relevance to the NIH's strategic plan for COVID-19 research](#)
- Experimental rigor
- Probability of attracting extramural funding

CONTACTS

Please contact researchhelp@urmc.rochester.edu for questions related to RFA process.

RESPONSIBILITY

Any reports or publications resulting from research using the Biobank samples will be required to acknowledge the SRL Biobank initiative, the UR CTSI and funding from the Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation.