Request for Applications:
Microbiome Innovation and Pilot Grants

Letter of Intent Due Date: September 30, 2015
Full Applications will be considered only after Invitation

The Center for Microbiome Informatics and Therapeutics was established to spur development of novel therapeutics for diseases associated with an altered microbiome. The Center encourages interdisciplinary translational research, especially collaborative projects that bridge the gap from the bench to the bedside. Project areas of interest include but are not limited to:

• Toolkits for engineering the human microbiome
• Understanding rules for assembly and/or maintenance of microbial communities
• Host-microbe interactions
• Screening for candidate therapeutic microbes, and/or small molecules
• Systems biology models to interpret results of in situ tissue analysis
• Toolkits for non-invasive, systems level measurements
• Human intervention studies

Funding Goals
Funds have been made available to support 3 Pilot and 3 Innovation Studies that advance the current mission of the Center. Special consideration will be given to translational projects requiring collaboration between scientific and clinical Principal Investigators

- 3 Innovation Grants of up to $125,000 each for 1 year in direct costs (overhead capped at 25%) to support collaborative projects that accelerate translation of basic research to clinical applications
- 3 Pilot Grants of up to $50,000 each for 1 year in direct costs (overhead capped at 25%) to support feasibility studies

The Center is committed to building an interactive research community, and encouraging communication between research groups. Awardees are expected to engage with this community by actively participating in events including:

- Work-in-Progress Meetings monthly, presenting your research on a rotating schedule
- Center-sponsored Seminar Series and Symposia
Eligibility
Applications will be considered from Principal Investigators from Research Institutes in MA, CT, VT, NH, or RI
Instructors from an eligible Institute may apply, by including a letter of support from their respective Department Chair. Please note that such awards will be issued to the Department and not the individual

Application process
1. Letter of Intent due by September 30, 2015

To be considered, the following requirements must be met:

- Describe proposed research project in less than 1,000 words including a concise (maximum length 150 words) statement outlining project objectives and deliverables
- Total word count does not include references
- List the contact details of the Principal Investigator(s)
- List all participating institutions
- Letter of Intent should be signed by the Institute’s Office of Sponsored Projects
- Letter should be accompanied by an NIH-format biosketch for the Principal Investigator(s)
- Submit electronically to vjm@mit.edu

2. After review, if selected, an invitation to submit a full proposal, will be sent to the Principal Investigator by email October 30, 2015. This invitation will include detailed submission requirements for the full application.

3. Full Applications will be due by November 15, 2015

Key Dates
Letter of Intent Submission Deadline: September 30, 2015
Invitations for Full Application will be sent: October 30, 2015
Earliest Anticipated Funding Start Date: January 1, 2016

Submission Information
Letter of Intent, and, upon invitation, Full Applications, should be submitted electronically to Vicki Mountain at vjm@mit.edu