

Administrative Supplements for U.S. – India Program for
Collaborative Research on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS
NOT-AI-07-022 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-07-022.html>)

Questions & Answers

Q1: Is this notice coordinated with activities sponsored by Indian funding organizations?

A1: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has published a related call for proposals http://www.icmr.nic.in/icmrnews/call_hiv.htm. This call for proposals and NOT-AI-07-022 are intended to support US-Indo research collaboration toward the same goals and under the same bilateral scientific cooperation program. We anticipate that most collaborations would proceed through awards provided to applications submitted by collaborating US and Indian scientists in response to both the NIH notice and to the ICMR call for applications. The optimal situation is for a research collaboration to receive funding for the US investigator(s) from NIH and for the Indian investigator(s) from the ICMR.

Q2: Does an application require linkage to an existing NIH grant?

A2: Yes. The NIH solicitation invites applications seeking the provision of supplemental funds for an active NIH grant (called the parent grant) that is not in its last year of funding. These grants must have been awarded by the participating NIH entities identified in the NIH solicitation. This mechanism facilitates the rapid review and funding of meritorious projects that meet the requirements for an NIH grant supplement.

Q3: When are the applications for supplemental funds under NOT-AI-07-022 due in the United States?

A3: The deadline in the United States is 11:59PM (23:59) Eastern Standard Time (EST), April 18, 2007. Applications must be received as a PDF document and applicants will need to provide the submission key provided in the notice. Applications to NIH must be sent no later than the deadline to the web site provided in the announcement. The web site for submission will not be enabled to receive applications after the receipt time and date.

Q4: Do I need any special information to submit my application?

A4: The information needed to submit an application is provided in the NIH announcement and through the questions and answers posted at this site. No other source of information is verified as correct and complete by NIH. Additional useful information is included in the related ICMR Call for Proposals referenced above in Q.1.

Q5: Is submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) an application requirement?

A5: No. Information provided in a Letter of Intent assists the NIH as it plans for application review and it allows early notification if an application appears not to be responsive to NOT-AI-07-022 or otherwise not eligible for consideration under this notification.

Q6: Who can be a Principal Investigator for applications under NOT-AI-07-022?

A6: The Principal Investigator must be the same individual as listed in the NIH "parent grant" (see A.2. above). Other investigators may be named in the application.

Q7: Who is responsible for overseeing implementation of the research activities described in the application?

A7: The “parent grant” Principal Investigator and the “parent grant” sponsoring institution are responsible for all activities described in the application and implemented through the grant supplement award.

Q8: What review criteria will be used to assess proposals?

A8: Proposals will be evaluated for responsiveness, completeness, and other qualities described in NOT-AI-07-022. Important elements include significance, approach, innovation, investigator(s), and environment as described in the Notice. Meritorious applications also will propose promising collaborative research and research training focused on HIV prevention, for example: microbicide development and evaluation, behavioral strategies to prevent HIV transmission, and HIV prevention vaccine research. Applications also will be assessed for evidence of commitment to collaboration with Indian scientists/institutions and the likelihood of ongoing support for the collaboration. Although not a specific factor in the NIH review, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider including in their applications evidence of responsiveness to the review criteria included in the related ICMR Call for Proposals (referenced above in Q.1).

Q9: When will the awards be funded?

A9: NIH will award supplements provided through this program no later than September 30, 2007.

Q10: Will there be more funding available in FY 2008 (begins October 1, 2007)?

A10: NOT-AI-07-022 is a one-time solicitation. In the future, other opportunities to apply for NIH funding may be provided under the US-India Program for Collaborative Research on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Q11: Must all applications include an Indian collaborator?

A11: A core objective of the program under which this grant supplementation opportunity is provided is to foster and/or expand scientifically productive US-Indo research and research training cooperation focused on HIV/AIDS prevention. Meritorious applications submitted under this program also will help enhance HIV/AIDS prevention research capacity at Indian institutions.

Q12: What is the maximum amount of money that can be requested?

A12: Applications submitted in response to NOT-AI-07-022 can request that NIH provide up to US \$100,000 in direct costs.

Q13: How should the budget for an Indian collaborator working in India be shown?

A13: Applicants may submit a budget plan to utilize requested NIH funding that includes expenditures for any activities included in the proposal. However, applicants are encouraged to seek funding to meet Indian partner expenses via the application process invited in the ICMR Call for Proposals, as noted above in response to Question 1. NIH application reviewers will be interested in seeing all budget plans submitted under either the NIH or ICMR solicitations linked to this program. A meritorious application will take full advantage of the opportunity to coordinate and utilize two sources of research and research training funding afforded by this US - India program. NIH funds will be awarded to successful applicants as supplements to the NIH parent grant in US dollars.

ICMR funds will be awarded to successfully competing Indian collaborators, via their institutions, in Indian rupees.

Q14: Are there any restrictions related to travel expenses that might be included in applications, either in number of trips or total dollars, either within India or between the US and India?

A14: All NIH rules and regulations related to international and domestic travel apply to this grant supplement solicitation. No additional travel expense restrictions are included in this program. However, applicants should note that meritorious applications are likely to be judicious in their projected use of funding to support travel related expenses. For all travel expenses, applicants would be well advised to provide detailed justifications specifically linked to scientific objectives. NIH reviewers will be evaluating applications based on criteria specified in the notification which include the likelihood that they will foster, stimulate or expand collaborative HIV/AIDS prevention research and research training between current NIH grantees and Indian researchers. While achieving such objectives is likely to require some travel, funding the travel of scientists between India and the US is not a primary goal of the program.

Q15: Can I apply for a supplement if the “parent grant” which I am seeking to supplement is in its last year of funding or if it is continuing to be active under a no-cost extension?

A15: No. To be eligible to receive supplemental funding provided through this program, the NIH parent grant must have at least one year, with funding, remaining at the time the supplement is likely to be awarded (i.e. at the end of August 2007). If an NIH grant has at least one funded year remaining in its period of award (i.e., until August 2008), it is eligible for supplementation under this program.

Q16: Can I apply for a supplement if my parent grant is in the first year of its period of award?

A16: Applicants seeking supplemental funding for a parent grants that is within its first year of award should contact the NIH Program Officer listed at the end of NOT-AI-07-022 for the parent grant. NIH Institutes have varying policies in this regard.

Q17: If the NIH parent grant Principal Investigator (PI) is an Indian citizen is that grant eligible for supplementation under this program?

A17: Yes. In this case, the Indian PI may apply for a supplement to their NIH Grant and the partner investigator may be either another Indian investigator or a US investigator. Applicants in this situation also should carefully consider the ICMR Call for Proposals and its intent to support Indian investigators as well as the overall intent of the program to foster and expand US-Indo research collaboration.

Q18: How should I prepare my NIH application to reflect budgets and studies that will be performed in India?

A18: Applications prepared in response to this program should describe all research and research training to be undertaken through the proposed or expanded collaboration, including those to be conducted by the Indian collaborator(s). Applications should clearly specify which research or research training elements will be performed in the US and which will be conducted in India. The budget submitted for NIH funding should describe the funding requirements for all elements of the collaboration to be funded in US Dollars. Collaborative research or research training elements to be funded in Indian Rupees also should be included in the detailed budget submitted to NIH, but may

be identified as “requiring no NIH funding” due to a separate funding application having been submitted to the ICMR for rupee funding through the companion program described above in Q.1 and Q.13. It is anticipated that Indian collaborators will prepare and submit applications in response to the ICMR call for applications, and that these applications’ budgets will include descriptions of research and research training elements to be undertaken with US Dollar funding described as “requiring no ICMR funding”. In all respects, the ICMR application must follow the guidelines described on the ICMR web site (http://www.icmr.nic.in/icmrnews/call_hiv.htm); however, it is expected that the ICMR submissions will describe the same collaborative research program as described in the applications submitted to the NIH in response to NOT-AI-07-022.

Q19: Are applicants able to request an additional US \$100,000 equivalent in Indian Rupees from the ICMR under the call for proposals mentioned in Q.1?

A19: As noted in A.2 above, applicants for NIH funding under this grant supplementation program may seek up to US \$100,000 in direct costs. The ICMR call for proposals does not include a specified funding ceiling. However, applicants should be aware that this program is intended, overall, to be one that generally matches US and Indian governmental contributions. Additional clarifications on the ICMR call for proposals should be sought from the ICMR.

Q20: When and how will decisions be made about the funding of applications?

A20: Decisions on the funding of successful applications will be made after reviews are completed by both the NIH and the ICMR (separate processes) and after staff review and consultation and second level joint program review. This review process will meet all ICMR and NIH requirements and assure no project receives duplicative funding for the same activities. It is anticipated that both the NIH and ICMR awards will be completed by September 30, 2007.

Q21: Is there a page limit for applications submitted in response to NOT-AI-07-022?

A21: As stated in the notice, there is a seven-page limit for describing the research/research training project. In sum, applications should include: a face page, an abstract, a budget (as described in other Qs & As), bio sketches, a description of the research/research training elements of the project (no more than 7 pages), and letters of support; therefore, an application may have more than ten pages, but probably would not include more than approximately twenty.