

**Institute for Modeling Collaboration and Innovation (IMCI)
Pilot Project Program**

Invitation for Letters of Intent

The Institute for Modeling Collaboration and Innovation (IMCI) at the University of Idaho advances model-based research and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration. It serves as a hub where faculty, postdocs, staff and students from a broad range of disciplines work together to solve real-world biomedical and complex-systems problems.

IMCI invites letters of intent for the 2026 Pilot Project Program funded by NIH P30GM159567. The objective of this program is to provide funding to stimulate model-based, biomedical research at the University of Idaho. The letters of intent submitted to this call will be reviewed by the IMCI Admin Team and feedback will be provided to the applicants by mid-February to strengthen their Pilot proposal. Letters of intent are required to be eligible to submit a Pilot proposal. If selected, the Pilot Project will receive funding of up to \$80,000 in direct costs.

Deadline for Letters of Intent: February 1, 2026

Instructions for Letters of Intent: Submit a one-page PDF to imci@uidaho.edu with the subject line “IMCI Pilot Program Letter of Intent”. The letter should clearly address the following:

- Describe your one-year project. Include tentative title, project goal and at least one specific aim. Clearly describe modeling component(s). List all team members.
- Briefly describe your plan for leveraging the findings from this project to apply for extramural funding. Include planned funding agency and tentative submission timeline.
- Briefly address the eligibility requirements listed below.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The project leader must be a University of Idaho faculty member or other independent researcher eligible to submit proposals as a PI. Priority will be given to faculty who qualify as NIH Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) or New Investigators (NIs). Those receiving funding from Research Projects or Pilot Projects on other COBREs, INBRE, IDeA CTR and other related awards are not eligible to apply to this program. COBRE or INBRE Supplements, DAGs, or TAGs do not make one ineligible.
- The Pilot Project should be for no more than one year. The planned research must be NIH-fundable and have a modeling component. Based on current NIH guidelines, these funds may not be used to support any diversity, equity, and inclusion related activities or research activities involving climate change, vaccine hesitancy, gender ideology, or influencing public opinion.
- If human subjects or animal use is involved in the Pilot Project, an IRB or IACUC plan must be approved before June 30, 2026.

Expectations: If awarded, the Pilot Project recipient is expected to:

- Cite P30GM159567 in publications arising from the Pilot Project.
- Affiliate with IMCI in VERAS when submitting proposals based on the Pilot Project.
- Provide data as requested for reporting to NIH.

Anticipated Timeline for Full Pilot Project Program:

- Feb 1: Letters of Intent due to IMCI (required to be eligible to submit proposal)
- Feb 15: Feedback sent to applicants
- Mar 23: Pilot Project proposals due to IMCI
- Jul 1: Earliest Pilot Project start date