

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. IMCI 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 is now accepting Letters of Intent for the 2027 Pilot Project Program, funded by NIH P30GM159567, to stimulate model-based biomedical research at the University of Idaho. The Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the IMCI Admin Team and feedback will be provided to the applicants by mid-October to strengthen their Pilot Proposal.

Letters of Intent are necessary to submit a Pilot Proposal. Selected Pilot Projects will receive funding of up to \$80,000 in direct costs.

Deadline for Letters of Intent: October 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 the Pilot Project Leader (PPL) and collaborators; note that co-leaders are not allowed.
- 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 PPL must be a University of Idaho faculty member. Although students and postdocs can be supported on these grants, this mechanism is intended to support the research agenda of the eligible faculty applicants, who should prepare the application themselves. They must be prepared to dedicate their own research time and effort to the proposed work. Both tenure track and non-tenure track faculty of any rank are invited to apply, but priority will be given to applicants 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 IDeA

awards are not eligible to apply to this program. However, those receiving funds from COBRE or INBRE Supplements, DAGs or TAGs remain eligible.

- The Pilot Project's aims must be scoped to be realistically achievable within 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 May 1, 2027.

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

