

**TO:** CVM and COE Faculty  
**FROM:** Michael McEntee  
**SUBJECT:** Center of Excellence Research Proposals – **Submission deadline: 5:00 pm, Friday, April 10, 2020**  
**DATE:** February 24, 2020

We are soliciting proposals from faculty for funding through the UT Center of Excellence in Livestock Diseases and Human Health (COE) for fiscal year 2021. Applications that address livestock diseases will also be considered for support with CVM NIFA formula funds (\$20,000+). The Center promotes the study of livestock diseases and animal/laboratory models of human disease. Proposals will be assessed and scored on three criteria: **1) applicability to Center objectives; 2) scientific merit; and 3) likelihood to lead to sustainable funding from extramural sources.** To be funded, projects must meet all three criteria. The Center's objectives are to improve the quality of human life through better animal health; expand livestock disease research in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the Institute of Agriculture; identify and characterize animal diseases that are similar to human diseases; and develop new strategies for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Center funding must be viewed as an investment to promote research.

Grants are for one fiscal year, and investigators will be required to submit a final report on the use of funds and research outcomes. In addition, requests for continuing support of previously funded or new areas of research must be accompanied by documentation of accomplishments made with previous funding, including progress toward obtaining extramural support (using template provided). It is unlikely that an award will be made to anyone who has received Center support for 3 or more years without such funding leading to external grant or contract support. Investigators submitting proposals must have a faculty assignment adequate to support the proposed research.

This call includes proposals for support of research, support for invited-speaker graduate courses, and support for research equipment purchases. Proposals to directly support research will be considered in two major categories: single-investigator awards for up to \$15,000 and multi-investigator collaborations for up to \$30,000. The latter must represent true intellectual collaboration between individuals and laboratories that bring together distinct, complementary skills and research backgrounds. Multi-investigator proposals from individuals working in the same research group and/or providing similar scientific expertise will not qualify, nor will token commitments or provision of services – successful proposals will clearly represent multidisciplinary research. Requests may include partial funding of graduate student stipends and post-doctoral and technical salaries (not faculty) and should indicate appropriate tuition and benefits. Requests for funding in excess of the designated category caps (above) will be considered, but approval will require strong justification. Equipment requests will require a 1:1 match to qualify for funding; value to multiple groups and lack of current access will enhance the potential for funding.

The format for the proposal is attached. Please follow the directions very carefully, as deviations may exclude the application from consideration (e.g., page limits). On the budget form, matching funds from unrestricted (E) accounts should be listed in the second column while matching funds from restricted (R) accounts should be listed in the third column. Please identify these matching accounts. R account matches may be used only if the Center proposal is compatible with the externally funded grant or contract.

**Please submit all proposals via e-mail to Ms. Kim Rutherford at [kimruth1@utk.edu](mailto:kimruth1@utk.edu). Complete proposals must be submitted by the 5:00 pm, April 10<sup>th</sup> deadline to be considered.**