

ABNEXUS

Research Collaboration Grant Program Spring 2024 Request for Proposals

Important Information

Links

NOI: Submit required Notice of Intent through InfoReady:

<https://cuanschutz.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1922124>

Full Proposal: An invitation and link to submit a full proposal will be emailed to eligible project teams.

Deadlines and Key Dates

Notice of Intent Due	February 16, 2024, 11:59pm MST
Invitation to Submit Full Proposal	February 20, 2024
Full Proposal Due	March 27, 2024, 11:59pm MST
Estimated Project Start Date	July 1, 2024

Events

Two AB Nexus Info Sessions will be held to provide interested teams with an opportunity to learn about the program about have questions answered by research partnership specialists from both campuses.

November 29, 2023, 12-1pm MST [Register with Zoom](#)

February 1, 2024, 12-1pm MST [Register with Zoom](#)

Contacts

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CU Boulder: [Lisa Nanstad](#)

CU Anschutz: [Erin Calhoun](#)

Program Description

AB Nexus is requesting proposals that expand and strengthen areas of research collaboration between CU Anschutz and CU Boulder researchers. By integrating expertise across our two campuses, AB Nexus aims to create high-impact opportunities to improve human health and well-being, demonstrate leadership and innovation, and spur economic development. The goal of the AB Nexus Research Collaboration Grant Program is to support interdisciplinary research activities that leverage expertise across campuses. Teams submitting a proposal should aim to answer relevant research questions involving basic, translational, clinical and epidemiological approaches, such as:

- What challenges related to human health and well-being could be investigated via unique collaborations between two or more disciplines?
- What new discoveries related to the study of disease and other factors that negatively impact human health and well-being could be achieved?
- What unmet needs related to operations within clinical science, clinical systems, health services, or population health could inform and drive the development of novel research technologies and capabilities?
- What opportunities are there for two or more disciplines to come together to translate innovations that positively impact humans, patients, practice or population health?

Award Information

AB Nexus seeks research project proposals from teams that involve new collaborations and teams that have collaborated in the past. Projects for both collaboration types will be funded for 18 months.

- **New Collaborations (\$75,000)** involve teams that have not previously worked together, but that have identified a path for how integrated, joint work could facilitate the study of unique research concepts. This may include projects led by junior investigators seeking to form connections early in their research careers or by senior investigators interested in expanding their research scope and capabilities.
- **Existing Collaborations (\$125,000)** involve teams with a history of collaboration, who may have received external funding, and are interested in expanding research efforts.

Teams may include junior and/or senior investigators pursuing interdisciplinary research that could lead to new sources of external funding. Projects are encouraged to explore research concepts that have been identified as areas of growth in the research community and which are of strategic interest to external agencies. Projects may propose higher risk research concepts, which have not previously been explored in depth or involve a non-traditional approach.

Note: Research ideas that are in a more preliminary stage than what is described above may be a better fit for the CCTSI Pilot Grant Programs. [For more information, contact Kristen House, CCTSI.](#)

Research Tracks

In each annual AB Nexus Research Collaboration funding cycle, we invite collaborative intercampus research project proposals that address challenges related to human health and well-being (Track 0). For the Spring 2024 funding cycle, two additional tracks (Tracks 1 and 2) have been developed to align with shifting trends in federal research funding.

AB Nexus welcomes proposals for projects that fit within any of the following tracks. Teams will be expected to select/identify the one track that is most applicable to their project.

- **Track 0. Broad Initiative:** Interrogates the causes of and solutions to broad biomedical challenges related to health and human well-being, with approaches/relevance outside the scope of Tracks 1 or 2. Teams may explore basic and translational investigations of disease pathology, therapeutics discovery, diagnostics; clinical investigations with application to population health, health services or implementation science research; etc.
- **Track 1. Climate Change & Health:** Explores health threats from climate change across the lifespan and builds health resilience in individuals and communities, especially among those at highest risk ([see NIH cog wheel](#)).
- **Track 2. AI, Advanced Computing, Quantum & Health:** Explores the integration of artificial intelligence, advanced computing and/or quantum approaches to advance discovery and applications of biomedicine – including (but not limited to) imaging, drug discovery & development, genomics & precision medicine; clinical decision support systems; etc. – that can solve healthcare challenges.

Eligibility

Project teams must include one principal investigator (PI) from CU Anschutz and one PI from CU Boulder. To be eligible:

- PIs from CU Anschutz must meet the school and/or department eligibility for being a principal investigator on externally funded grants.
- PIs from CU Boulder must be Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty, Senior Instructors, or Career Track Research Faculty (i.e., Research Professors Series, Senior Research Associates (SRA), and Research Associates (RA)) who hold an appointment of half-time or greater.
- Researchers may submit only one proposal in the role of PI but may be listed as a collaborator on multiple proposals.

Researchers are not eligible to submit a 2024 AB Nexus proposal in the role of PI if:

- They are the PI of an active AB Nexus project. Current AB Nexus awardees are not eligible to submit a new proposal until their project is completed and the award is closed out. Once all award and reporting requirements have been fulfilled, past awardees are eligible to submit a new proposal. However, decisions about additional awards to previously funded applicants will be at the discretion of the AB Nexus Faculty Advisory Committee.

Budgetary Guidance

Unallowable or Unrequired Costs. Proposals for or with the following expenses in the budget are not eligible:

- Projects with a primary focus on curriculum development
- Faculty course or teaching buy-out

Indirect costs or subcontracts are not required. Proposals for projects that could be supported with existing funds, such as funding from other internal or external sources, are *discouraged*.

Allowable Costs. In addition to costs for supplies and materials, the use of core services, etc., some salary support can be requested based on role/campus:

- PIs from CU Anschutz may request the equivalent of 0.04 FTE (per fiscal year).
- PIs from CU Boulder may request up to two weeks of summer salary (per fiscal year).
- Non-investigators (i.e., postdocs, students) from both campuses may request an amount fitting to the work proposed.

Awarded Project Requirements

Upon accepting an award, the project PIs agree to fulfill several requirements.

- **Regulatory Compliance.** All approvals from the relevant regulatory compliance governing bodies (IRB, IACUC, EHS, biohazardous materials, etc.) must be granted before work may be initiated.
- **Project Reporting.** Research partnership specialists will be in contact at 6, 12 and 18 months to check on progress, with PIs required to submit brief reports at select time points. After project completion, teams will be asked to respond to periodic surveys to help establish return on investment of the program.
- **AB Nexus Reviewer.** Serve on the committee that reviews and scores AB Nexus proposals.
- **Pursuit of External Funding.** Project PIs agree to identify and pursue external funding to achieve sustainability for their project. Research development staff will be available to assist in this activity through funding opportunity searches and proposal development support.

Application Process and Requirements

InfoReady Online Portal Access Instructions

Notices of Intent and invited full proposals will be submitted through InfoReady. PIs from both campuses may use the portal to submit. *However, please note that for this cycle, submitting PIs from CU Anschutz and CU Boulder should log in following different instructions:*

- Submitting PIs from CU Anschutz should select “Login for University of Colorado Users” and proceed with their university credentials/single sign-on.
- Submitting PIs from CU Boulder should select “Login for Other Users” and register/create an InfoReady account. In future cycles, CU Boulder investigators will be able to use single sign-on.

Notice of Intent

Teams are required to submit a Notice of Intent through InfoReady by **February 16, 2024, 11:59pm MST:**

<https://cuanschutz.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1922124>

The Notice of Intent must include the following:

- Information about the PIs (names, appointments, contacts, etc.)
- Designation of collaboration status – New or Existing
- Designation of research track – Broad Initiative, Climate Change & Health, AI/Advanced Computing & Health
- AB Nexus application title
- Brief project abstract (no more than 6 sentences)
- Selection of proposal themes (from defined list) and self-identified keywords (5-10)

Full Proposal

Invitations to submit full proposals, along with the full proposal InfoReady link, will be emailed to eligible project teams by February 20, 2024. Full proposals are due by **March 27, 2024, 11:59pm MST:**

<https://cuanschutz.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1932709>.

Full proposals should use clear writing appropriate for non-experts and make a strong case for the importance of the project to reviewers outside the discipline(s). Please adhere to the following formatting guidelines for any proposal documents:

- 0.5” margins minimum

- 11 pt Arial type, single spaced
- PDF format, unless template provided.

Proposal Requirements

Each of the documents listed below will be uploaded separately into designated fields within InfoReady:

- **Project Summary (1 page maximum):** Provide a summary of the proposed activity that outlines the concept to be explored and/or problem to be addressed. Explain why it is important or innovative. For existing collaborations, include a brief description of previous work.
- **Research Strategy (1.5 page maximum):** Outline the proposed research program including specific aims research plan and expected outcomes.
- **Project Timeline & Sustainability Plan (template provided in InfoReady):** Describe anticipated metrics of success and projected timeline for the 18-month award period. Address how AB Nexus funding can lay the foundation, or continue support, for an expanded activity. Include specific sources that will be sought for future support and indicate the long-term potential for growth of this activity. Proposals should emphasize a plan for 1) substantial near-term growth and sustained expansion of the collaborative team across campuses and 2) generation of significant and continuing return on investment, including showing specific relevant funding opportunities and prior engagement with target funding agency program officers where possible.
- **Expertise (0.5 page maximum):** Describe the expertise of the assembled team and why the team is uniquely qualified to achieve project goals.
- **NIH or NSF Biosketch for both PIs**
- **Budget (template provided in InfoReady):** Each campus will administer the component of the budget occurring on that campus. Therefore, Anschutz and Boulder PIs should coordinate the total budget requested but assemble individual budgets for planned expenses that will occur on each campus (to be submitted on multiple tabs of the same budget spreadsheet).
- **Budget Justification (2 pages maximum):** Provide a budget justification that is reasonable and appropriate for the scope of the work proposed. The justification should be divided into a section for work that will be performed on the Anschutz campus and the Boulder campus.
- **References (no limit)**

Review Criteria

Projects with potential to increase sustained collaboration across the CU Anschutz and CU Boulder Campuses will be prioritized, especially those with potential for long-term collaboration.

Review Criteria

- **Intellectual Merit:** Merit and quality of proposed research; potential to contribute value and advance knowledge (particularly factoring in the novel approach to concept(s)).
- **Impact:** Measurable benefit of basic, translational, clinical or epidemiological approaches to significantly improve human well-being.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** Demonstration of fully integrated research collaborations and partnerships across disciplines. Of high interest are proposals that indicate a specific plan to grow and expand the team over time.
- **Leverage/Sustainability:** Long-term potential for growth of the proposed research activity, including identified or prospective support from external funding agencies. Of high interest are proposals that identify specific external opportunities, ideally growing in magnitude or complexity, and a timeline in which the team plans to pursue them.

Note on review considerations across disciplines: Consideration of review criteria will acknowledge the distinct definitions of merit, impact and success that exist across various disciplines.

All members of our research community are encouraged to serve as an AB Nexus Reviewer. Reviewing AB Nexus proposals is a great way to learn about the program and gain insight into intercampus collaborative research. Reviewers are provided guidance and information to facilitate constructive reviews. Proposal review will occur between April 1-May 13, 2024. If interested to serve, please complete the [AB Nexus Reviewer Sign-Up Form, Spring 2024](#).