

Request for Applications (RFA): Advancing Microbiome Research at the University of Nebraska

Issued by: The Nebraska Microbiome Research Interest Group (UNMC Programs of Excellence)

Application Deadline: 5:00PM Monday July 7th 2025

Purpose: The Nebraska Microbiome Research Interest Group invites applications for innovative research proposals that advance our understanding of the microbiome and its impact on human health. This funding opportunity seeks to support investigators to produce primary, preliminary or feasibility data that can support larger, future proposals for groundbreaking research that leverages novel technologies, interdisciplinary approaches, and translational strategies to address key questions in microbiome science impacting human health.

Research Priorities: Proposals should address one or more of the following priority areas:

1. **Microbiome-Host Interactions:** Understanding how microbiomes interact with hosts, including humans, animals, and plants, to influence health and disease.
2. **Microbiome Modulation:** Developing innovative strategies to manipulate microbiomes for therapeutic benefits.
3. **Technological Innovation:** Creating or enhancing tools and methodologies for microbiome analysis, including bioinformatics, sequencing technologies, and synthetic biology that lead to advances in diagnostics, prognostication and monitoring human health and disease.
4. **Microbiome and Public Health:** Exploring the relationship between microbiomes and public health issues, such as antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, and infectious diseases.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open only to the four University of Nebraska campuses.
- Applicants may apply individually or as part of a collaborative team.
- Students (undergraduate and graduate), post-docs, and faculty are eligible.

Funding Details:

- The awards include 2 one-time \$25,000 and one \$50,000 grants appropriate to the scope and scale of the project. It is key that applicants tailor their proposals for one or the other award levels as those proposals targeting a \$50,000 award level will not be considered for reduced level funding if the application doesn't meet criteria for funding at the requested higher level.
- Applicants should specify which award size their proposal is targeting.
- The funding period is for one year.
- Equipment purchases are subject to the particular campus' guidelines.

Application Process: Applicants must submit a research proposal that includes (2 page limit):

- Project title and abstract.
- Background and significance.
- Specific aims and hypotheses.
- Research design and methodology.
- Preliminary data (if available).
- Aims for use of the data generated

Additional information (2 page limit)

- References/Bibliography
- Budget and justification.
- Timeline

Include

- Curriculum vitae of key personnel (PI(s) only plus mentor for students and post-docs).

Review Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Scientific Merit:** Innovation, rigor, and feasibility of the proposed research.
- **Relevance:** Alignment with the stated research priorities.
- **Impact:** Potential to advance microbiome science and its applications.
- **Team Expertise:** Qualifications, capabilities and potential of the principal investigator(s) and team members.
- **Appropriateness of the Proposed Work for the Award Size:** The proposal must provide compelling suitability for consideration at the targeted award level. Proposals submitted at the \$50,000 level will not be considered for a reduced award level.

Submission Instructions: Applications must be submitted electronically to abgibson@unmc.edu

Key Dates:

- Application Opens: Friday May 23, 2025
- Application Deadline: Monday July 7, 2025 5:00PM
- Award Notification: Monday July 28, 2025
- Project Start Date: August 2025

Contact Information: For inquiries, please contact:

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We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that push the boundaries of microbiome research and its transformative potential.