

Notice of Intent to Publish an e-ASIA Joint Research Program Urgent Call for Proposals on COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 Research

- Estimated Request for Application Publication Date: September 10, 2020
- Estimated Application Receipt Date: October 22, 2020
- Estimated e-ASIA Award Date: December 2020 or January 2021

Purpose:

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program ([e-ASIA JRP](#)) encourages and supports collaborative scientific research that engages investigators in the East Asia region, the United States and other countries that border the Pacific. The goals of the program include the advancement of scientific discovery, the promotion of innovation, and the enhancement of science and technology capacity in the region. Considering the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic and its global and regional impact, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the other Member Organizations of the e-ASIA JRP, will issue an urgent joint call for proposals to solicit research project applications that involve scientific teams in multiple countries who wish to collaboratively study SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. The duration of a selected research project will be one year (12 months), in total, from the start date. However, based on the availability of funding and research progress made during the first year, the duration of the selected research project may be extended through a competitive application process for up to two additional years with additional funding or through a no-cost extension.

A key objective of this urgent collaborative research initiative is to strengthen multilateral collaboration among researchers participating in the call. The ultimate scientific objective of the initiative is to contribute to the development of medical and non-medical countermeasures that will address the current COVID-19 pandemic. The e-ASIA JRP presents an unusual research collaboration opportunity in that it offers access to new, re-budgeted or in-kind funding (depending on the sponsoring organization in each country) to support multi-investigator research engaging scientists in Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.

Aims Specific to Medical Research:

Researchers are encouraged to submit international collaborative research project applications designed to contribute to the expansion of knowledge that will help prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19.

For medical research, this urgent research initiative aims to identify opportunities, establish and maintain open communication, encourage sharing of information and resources, and expand the global base of knowledge about SARS-CoV-2, as well as to foster the development of diagnostics, therapeutics, medical and public health preventive strategies and safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19. Possible research fields include but are not limited to public health and epidemiology, drug discovery, vaccine development, diagnostic technology, and immunology.

Aims Specific to Non-Medical Research:

Researchers are encouraged to submit international collaborative research projects contributing to the prevention and mitigation of effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Collaboration between scientists in e-ASIA member organizations' countries will help to better understand how to balance pandemic prevention and response with economic growth, to develop new technologies or approaches to COVID-

19 control, and enhance or re-establish the R&D enterprise in the region. A pandemic with the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 requires a fresh approach to understand the impact on individuals and the wider society, as well as novel interventions to address these impacts. Meritorious research teams may include members from a wide range of fields and disciplines, such as mathematics and modeling, social, economic, and behavioral science.