



Cornell Institute of Biotechnology

NYSTAR Designated Center for Advanced Technology (CAT)

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TO: Cornell University Faculty and Researchers
FROM: Matthew DeLisa, Director, Cornell Institute of Biotechnology
DATE: March 8, 2024
RE: **Call for CAT Grant Proposals (Funding maximum increased, for awards up to \$150,000 with 1:1 cost share from industry partner)**

We are pleased to announce our biannual Center for Life Science Enterprise/Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) call for grant proposals, administered by the Cornell Institute of Biotechnology (CIB).

This call for proposals seeks collaborative applied research between Cornell principal investigators at any Cornell campus and New York State company partners that will lead to an eventual commercialized biotechnology product or service, with quantifiable economic impact within the State.

We will be awarding grants in many life sciences fields, including but not limited to, the following:

- Agricultural & Environmental Biotechnologies
- Biochemistry/Biophysics
- Bioengineered Pest Control
- Bioremediation/Biodegradation
- Biosensors
- Bioinformatics/Computational Biology
- Diagnostics & Detection Technologies
- Digital Health Technologies
- Genomics/Proteomics/Metabolomics
- Medical Devices
- Microbiome Technologies
- Nanobiotechnologies
- Therapeutics
- Tissue Engineering
- Vaccines & Immunotechnologies
- Veterinary Technologies

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

1. *Scientific merit* – sound research design and methodology, innovativeness, potential for impact
2. *Market potential and commercialization pathway* – demonstrate understanding of target market and its size, competing technologies, regulatory approvals needed, scale-up
3. *Economic impact* – potential for job creation and revenues within New York State that could arise from your technology in the future, and approximate timelines for the impact

A mandatory committed cost share at a minimum of a 1:1 match is required. CAT grant funds to matched NYS for-profit company partner funds will be strictly spent at an equivalent rate. Additional sources of support are permitted, but may not be used towards the NYS company cost share requirement.

Application deadline is 5:00 pm on April 7th, 2024, with an anticipated project start date of July 1st, 2024.

Further details about the CAT grant program are available on the CIB website at: <https://www.biotech.cornell.edu/commercialization-cat>. Previously funded projects can be found at: <https://www.biotech.cornell.edu/commercialization-cat/awarded-projects>.

[see next page for Guidelines]

Grant Proposal and Reporting Guidelines

Who is eligible: Principal investigators must be eligible to serve as defined by Cornell Research Services at <https://researchservices.cornell.edu/policies/pi-eligibility>. PIs from Cornell Ithaca, Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Tech, and Weill Cornell Medicine are invited to apply.

Criteria for CAT awards:

- Projects must be within a life sciences field.
- Proposals will be evaluated on scientific merit, clear commercialization pathway and NYS economic impact potential. Proposed work may be related to ongoing work, but must not duplicate projects funded elsewhere.
- The grant must include significant collaboration with a NYS for-profit company, with matching funds (cost share) of at least 1:1 from the company. A NYS company is defined as one that has a manufacturing or research entity or headquarters in the State. The cost share must be in the form of a cash match in a Cornell account, and must be spent at approximately the same rate as the CAT grant funds. Other sources of support may be included in the proposal to demonstrate the strength of collaboration, but may not be used towards the company cost share requirement.

Reporting Obligations:

1. Prior to start date, PIs are required to submit 1–3 slides, including images related to the project and a layperson's explanation of the science, to be used as an example of the research being undertaken with CAT funding.
2. A brief narrative report and a financial report is due by January 10, 2025.
3. An expanded final narrative report and financial report is due by July 10, 2025.

Application form:

The proposal link is available on the Institute's website, at:

<https://www.biotech.cornell.edu/commercialization-cat/cat-grants/request-proposals>.

Budgets: *For this cycle only*, the dollar amount for a single investigator project has been increased to a maximum of \$150,000 for up to one year. Project cash match is required, at a minimum of 1:1 NYS company partner funds to CAT grant funds. Projects requesting the new higher maximum award **MUST** exhibit the ability for a full cash match. All budgeted costs must be in direct support of the proposed project and exclude the budget restrictions detailed below. Requests for equipment and out-of-state travel must be preapproved. Support levels for multi-investigator CAT projects will be based on total company matching dollars of all investigators on the project.

Budget restrictions: Funds cannot be used for building renovations, delivery of credit-bearing college coursework, basic research, foreign travel, entertainment, consultants, journals and books, or office equipment.