

ICS Budget Proposal for NC Collaboratory Support

The majority of the research investment of the NC Collaboratory's grant, using the North Carolina State Legislature appropriated funds from the Federal CARES Act, has been applied to large projects on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. The selection process favored established health science programs with long records of progress along promising pathways to develop therapies and other mitigations for COVID-19.

In addition this measured, discipline-based approach to progress, a global pandemic requires thinking in new ways, applying shared analysis across multiple disciplines, to address complex questions and find solutions by working collaboratively.

The Institute for Convergent Science (ICS) is a hub where experts and researchers come together to solve global problems. Using Innovate Carolina's Impact framework, we activate latent and interconnected knowledge through structured collaboration and help direct the activity of teams of researchers toward novel and practical innovations. Innovative ideas and approaches often result from the serendipitous collision of ideas, research programs, and technologies. Yet the journey from innovative idea to transformational product, technology or solution is difficult to realize in the short period allowed by the grant's requirements. ICS sparks, fosters, encourages and accelerates global scientific team projects at UNC that are tackling the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

Projects under the supervision of ICS and Innovate Carolina will look for outlying high-yield solutions drawn from the collaborative framework of UNC's diverse portfolio. Convergence will lead to opportunities for scale-up, which will, in turn pave the way for practical applications of these novel approaches in the form of translational research and commercial start-ups. In this sense, the investment in the relatively small budget for ICS compared to that of the domain research projects, is like the venture capital investment of our endowment, compared to that anchored in established equity.

At the start, ICS/IC funds within the NC Collaboratory grant will include an investment in promising projects which were not funded in this first round, helping these projects to re-shape their goals by developing their core insights and linking these to those of other related endeavors in disciplines aligned with theirs, but outside their immediate line of vision. We will work with other established programs within the UNC system, such as the Eshelman Institute for Innovation and the School of Government along with stakeholders around North Carolina in the application of the innovation framework, thereby leveraging our resources to achieve impacts outside those projects under our direct supervision. We will also deploy our resources to help less well-established researchers develop sound

and validated ideas that arise from convergence across disciplines, which may elevate less mature, but potentially game changing approaches to mitigating and attacking the pandemic.

Our following working budget is modest, focused on staff whose goal is coordination among different schools and departments at UNC and including traditionally disadvantaged institutions within the NC university system, with particular attention to applications which are relevant to rural North Carolina constituencies and which build up the state's commercial resources.

Detailed budget (all salary calculations cover July 1 - December 30, 2020)

Budget item	Expense			
	Salary	Fringe	Non-personnel	Line S/T
ICS budget				
Senior Coordinator (708.1 service contract)			\$75,000	\$75,000
Erin Hopper (EHRA) - team convergence, funding, leverage, timelines and milestones (25% salary + fringe)	\$28,750	\$8,725		\$37,475
Event planning			\$10,000	\$10,000
Equipment, supplies, local transport			\$10,000	\$10,000
Project management assistant	\$18,858			\$18,858
Ell post award management non-personnel expenses			\$20,967	\$20,967
Administrative staff	\$42,000			\$42,000
CATEGORY S/T	\$89,608	\$8,725	\$115,967	
TOTAL				\$214,300

Budget breakdown by personnel category

EHRA Salary	\$28,750
SHRA Salary	
Grad Student	\$18,858
Temps	\$42,000
Fringe Pool	\$8,725
Non-personnel Expenses	\$115,967
Total	\$214,300