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## **IGNITE ACORN-AMR FAST GRANTS 2023**

*“mighty oaks from little acorns grow”*

Planting the seeds of breakthrough solutions for antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION: 15 February 2023** - please do submit your proposal as soon as possible to allow for some time for the reviewers to seek clarification on the contents of your proposal

**DATE BY WHICH DECISIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED: 20 March 2023**

Antimicrobial resistance is a serious and growing problem that is especially challenging for India where resistance to antibiotics accounts for close to a million deaths annually.

Despite tremendous efforts by pharmaceutical companies in the last several decades, very few antibiotics that can overcome AMR have come out of their pipelines. Even the few antibiotics that have been discovered have not generated the kind of revenues needed to fully cover the costs of discovering and developing them. While the biopharmaceutical sector struggles to find a business model that will justify investment in new technologies to solve AMR, researchers in academia who are not hamstrung by the return on investment calculus of private capital can fill the gap, especially in the earlier stages of development of new solutions. This is especially salient for academic researchers in India where the problem of AMR festers and grows every year.

Our definition of AMR encompasses resistance of bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi to standard therapies currently available. In this first phase of our Grant Funding under ACORN-AMR our intention is to find and support Early Translational Research in the area of AMR. This can be defined as novel ideas that have some experimental data to support them but not the whole suite of data that would make these solutions ready for development in the eyes of agencies like BIRAC or private investors who would come in at a later stage when the ideas are more fully developed and de-risked.

There are many potential solutions to AMR, and they are all within scope for ACORN-AMR. They may come from how we use antibiotics (antibiotic stewardship) to how we diagnose infections (diagnostics), as well as how AMR can be prevented. Ideas for new modalities or chemical entities to treat infections are also welcome. We would be really excited to see proposals that break new ground. The funding available for each proposal is in the range of INR 5 - 20 L. The likelihood of funding is a function of the likely impact of the proposal (higher the impact the better), likelihood of success (higher the better) and the level of funding asked for (lower the better). The timeline within which the work must be completed should be 18 months or less (the shorter the timeline the better). The ACORN-AMR FAST GRANT is only the first stage of what is potentially a multi-stage funding process whereby ideas that show promise in this stage will be eligible for step up funding in subsequent stages.

While we would like to receive a wide variety of proposals from which we can choose, we do have ONE stringent criterion:



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The applicant for the grant should hold a full time position at a non-profit research institution and the idea should have plausibility based on data from the applicant's laboratory.

Other than this we have a few other preferences that we will be happy to waive if the merit of the proposal is compelling:

1. We prefer proposals that have a strong central hypothesis that can be proven or disproven within the tenure of the Grant (a maximum of 18 months) using the experimental methods/design proposed in the application
2. We are agnostic to where the proposal comes from, but we do prefer proposals that involve multi-institutional OR interdisciplinary collaboration, and we would love to see applications from younger scientists who are just launching their scientific careers (even if you are at a lesser known institution!).

Please submit your proposal via email to [swamis@ignitelSF.in](mailto:swamis@ignitelSF.in)

The subject line of the email should say: ACORN-AMR Proposal 2023, Your Name and Institution

The proposal (maximum 10 pages) should contain the following sections:

1. A high level SUMMARY of the proposal (150 words or less)
2. Background science in support of this proposal (ideally ONE page)
3. The central hypothesis or idea (ideally half a page)
4. The experimental design to test your hypothesis/idea; experiments that are definitive in their outcomes and constitute a go/no-go decision point for further work are preferred (ideally ONE page)
5. Possible outcomes and next steps (ONE page)
6. List of References in support of (1) above (ONE page)
7. Six monthly Milestones, and Funding (with breakup) required to be disbursed in six monthly tranches (ONE page). If your project timeline is only 6 months or less, then you can ask for the entire fund release to be disbursed at the start of the project.
8. Name of PI, co-PIs, list of relevant papers published by the PI and Co-PI, address, email ID and mobile phone numbers
9. If funding announcements are made in the last week of March, on what date can you commence work on your proposal
10. Self-certification that this Proposal does not overlap with any other ongoing funded proposals OR proposals submitted to other agencies for funding. Please do list ALL proposals of a similar nature that are funded in your laboratory as well as proposals of a similar nature submitted by you for funding to other agencies

Our website: [ignitelSF.in](http://ignitelSF.in)