

15 September, 2021

Dear Applicant to the Ignite Fast Grant Open Call

On behalf of Ignite and our Donors, I would like to thank all of you who put in the effort to submit proposals in response to the Fast Grants Open Call Announcement. We did not expect the overwhelming response we received - 271 proposals. The funds available to us allow us to fund 5 proposals. We would have loved to fund more proposals, and truthfully the final choices were made extremely difficult because of the significant number of high quality proposals. We are presently working on raising additional funds from Donors. As and when we raise additional funds we will announce funding rounds where we hope some of you will consider participating. We have individually communicated to the FIVE selected Awardees our decision to proceed with formalities with respect to the funding. If you have not received an email from us by 10 AM this morning it means that your proposal has not been selected for funding.

While it is nearly impossible to respond individually to each of you, we thought it might be helpful if we shared the principal criterion we used to filter the proposals received: As stated in the announcement we were looking for proposals with a strong central hypothesis and a robust experimental approach to test that hypothesis unequivocally. Therefore, studies of a descriptive nature or those that proposed product development were deprioritized.

Our goal was to make the application and review process simple and fast. While no process is perfect, we have worked hard to ensure that all proposals received fair attention. And despite this, many excellent proposals will go unfunded due to the limited funds at our disposal. We hope this will not discourage anyone from submitting their ideas to Ignite in subsequent Open Calls.

I would like to thank my scientific colleagues at Ignite, as well as the external reviewers who helped us get through the mammoth task of reviewing this many proposals in a short period of time. The names of the Awardees will be announced after some of the preliminary formalities relating to their submission are completed.

With warmest regards and our best wishes,

Swami Subramaniam
For Ignite Life Science Foundation