

## FACULTY-STUDENT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH: NEW INVESTIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM 2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

[www.calstate.edu/csuperb](http://www.calstate.edu/csuperb)

### Key Dates & Information:

RFP Release Date:	August 16, 2023
Proposal Due Date:	February 1, 2024 before 5:00 p.m. pacific time
Award Notification:	May, 2024
Maximum Award Amount:	\$15,000
Project Duration:	Up to 18 months from the project start date (approximately June 1, 2024)

### Program Description:

The CSU Biotechnology program (CSUBIOTECH) aims to increase the number of externally-funded biotechnology researchers across the California State University (CSU) system. CSUBIOTECH recognizes the importance of research experiences in biotechnology student success. Research is a form of engaged learning, but also offers students the opportunity to acquire abilities on which to build a life science career. The Faculty-Student Collaborative Research New Investigator Grant program aims to provide CSU faculty with the resources required not only to successfully compete for externally funded grants, but also to involve CSU students in their scholarship and research programs.

### 2024 Proposal Review Criteria:

- Project plans and budgets must be tied to the collection of data necessary for submission of research grant applications to external-to-the-CSU funding agencies or organizations
- Research projects must be original and/or innovative.
- Research projects must be feasible within the time and budget proposed.
- Research projects must involve CSU students in a significant way.
- If applicable, proposals should include letters of support from co-PIs or key collaborators detailing their role and commitment to the research project.
- In keeping with calls for plain writing to improve science and technical communication, CSUBIOTECH review panels will consider the effectiveness of the non-technical abstract in their assessment of proposals (For help, see paper by Rakedzon and coworkers, <http://bit.ly/2uMqkpt>).

### Eligibility Criteria:

The proposed research project must be biotechnology related. CSUBIOTECH defines biotechnology as a **fusion of biology and technology**. BIO (<https://www.bio.org/what-biotechnology>) lists biotechnology examples, applications and sectors; CSUBIOTECH explicitly adds to these lists health IT and medical device research and development. CSUBIOTECH welcomes and encourages applications from CSU faculty in all disciplines related to the current practice of biotechnology, including but not limited to life sciences, physical sciences, clinical sciences, math, computer science, agricultural science, engineering, and/or business.

*New Investigators:* The New Investigator Grant program is open to tenured/tenure-track CSU faculty members who have not yet received external support for their CSU research projects that exceeds a sum total of more than \$15,000 by the application date. Any external support received during the review/award process requires post-award renegotiation with CSUBIOTECH. Faculty members who received postdoctoral fellowships, student training grants, or major instrumentation grants that did not include funding that can be applied to their CSU research program, are eligible for the New Investigator program. However, faculty members are ineligible if they were a Principal Investigator (PI) on federal

research grants, including grants issued by foreign central governmental agencies, prior to their CSU faculty appointment. The restriction on prior federal grant funding includes NIH K-99-type awards. Additionally, PIs are ineligible for the New Investigator program if they have received two previous CSUBIOTECH research seed grants.

Other CSU staff may be listed as co-PIs or key collaborators. Existing support from collaborators or other CSU sources (e.g. departmental start-up funds, intramural grants, shared and donated equipment, and other seed program funds) should be clearly identified and described. PIs should include letters of support or evidence of funds, release time and/or shared resources that together indicate institutional support and feasibility of the project.

CSUBIOTECH will consider only one proposal per PI at a time to this program. Investigators applying to this program are welcome to apply to other CSUBIOTECH grant and award programs.

***Budget:***

CSUBIOTECH will accept New Investigator grant proposals with budgets **up to \$15,000**. Duration of the award will be 18 months from the project start date (approximately June 1, 2024). Exact project start dates are contingent upon award conditions, including IRB, IBC, or IACUC approvals on campus.

CSUBIOTECH grants are issued as a result of an internal competition within the CSU and are not subject to Facilities and Administrative (F&A), or indirect, costs. F&A costs are not allowed as a grant-funded expense in proposals submitted in response to RFPs from programs, like CSUBIOTECH, that receive the majority of their support from legislatively appropriated funds, CSU lottery funds or student fees (including State University fees). The F&A foregone at the campus/auxiliary's federally negotiated off-campus rate may be shown as cost match on the proposal. This amount may be used by the auxiliary or enterprise fund as an offset to the university's cost allocation plan, in accordance with EO 753/1000.

**Budget Restrictions:**

- Faculty salary budgets up to \$5000 per individual are allowed, including fringe, except for “additional employment” during faculty normally employed periods. It can be used for “additional employment” during summer, spring and winter breaks when not employed by the campus as well as for “release time” during the normally employed periods. Proposals should indicate how much time each faculty/key personnel will spend on the project and when s/he will be working on the project.
- Student salaries proposed and paid should comply with amounts determined by campus human resources departments. CSUBIOTECH will not approve any salary or rate in excess of campus limitations. Applicants must ensure funds paid to students are not in conflict with these limitations or any others set by graduate or undergraduate programs with which the student may be involved. CSUBIOTECH funds cannot be used to supplement pay for effort if the student is already receiving payroll from another source. Employment of foreign nationals is limited to individuals who meet the conditions set by applicant's campus human resources department policies regarding eligibility to receive compensation in the United States. Proposals should identify students by name when possible, the student's status (undergraduate or graduate student), the hourly salary rate, the number of hours each student will dedicate to the project, and whether they will be working during the summer and/or academic year.
- Travel to professional meetings is not allowed with CSUBIOTECH Seed Grant funds. Apply to CSUBIOTECH's Travel Grants Program to cover those expenses.

**Proposal Submission:**

**Applicants must submit their completed and signed proposals by Thursday, February 1, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. pacific time.**

The complete proposal package, including signed cover sheet, must be submitted electronically on the 2024 New Investigator Grant proposal template using CSUBIOTECH's InfoReady proposal submission

system before the deadline on Thursday, February 1, 2024, before 5:00 p.m. pacific time (use “Apply” link at [www.calstate.edu/csUPERB](http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB)). Faculty applicants login to the system using their campus ID/username and password. Only Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF file formats are compatible with the system. Applicants who are unable to access or use the InfoReady submission system should send their completed proposal template, including any additional documentation or support letters, to James Schmitt at [jcschmitt@sdsu.edu](mailto:jcschmitt@sdsu.edu) by the submission deadline of February 1, 2024 at 5pm.

Any questions about using the InfoReady submission system can be directed to Tyson Gadd at [tgadd@sdsu.edu](mailto:tgadd@sdsu.edu).

Proposals must adhere to length guidelines stated in the proposal submission system and listed in the proposal drafting template. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in proposal rejection during administrative review. Both the 2024 Proposal Template and the New Investigator Grant submission link can be found on the CSUBIOTECH website.

Proposals that are complete and meet eligibility requirements will be evaluated by a review panel comprised of CSU faculty. The proposal review meeting will be held in April 2024. The CSUBIOTECH program office makes final funding decisions. Funding decisions are based on recommendations made by the review panel, available funds, and CSUBIOTECH strategic priorities. As part of the proposal review process, all PIs will receive written reviews. CSUBIOTECH will not make awards to faculty members who have outstanding, past-due final reports for grants made under this or other CSUBIOTECH grant programs.

#### **CSUBIOTECH Statement of Principles on Professional Behavior, Policies and Procedures:**

CSUBIOTECH values diverse perspectives where all individuals can flourish. CSUBIOTECH is dedicated to providing an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and creativity, free and lively debate conducted with mutual respect for individuals, and freedom from intolerance. These values are applicable to any aspect of CSUBIOTECH’s work, including meetings, symposia, and funded activities. Specifically, members of our community value:

- Critical scholarly discourse for the purpose of understanding, advancing scientific ideas, and educating the next generation of science and engineering practitioners;
- Education and research environments where all people are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and free of bias, hostility, and harassment of any kind;
- Conversations and discussions where community members can share ideas in a collegial atmosphere that is inclusive and values everyone’s input and opportunity to participate;
- Advocacy for equality and inclusivity in science;
- The use of inclusive examples, graphics, and stories in presentations and proposals;
- Access for all community members, including traditionally underrepresented groups, to fully participate in and become leaders in science;
- The support and promotion of the education and careers of all scientists, engineers, and bio-entrepreneurs;
- Leadership in our fields to strengthen scientific mentorship and create an atmosphere of collaboration;
- Commitment to our own education and participation in activities related to recognizing and eliminating implicit bias.

#### **Policies**

- 1) All participants in CSUBIOTECH events and activities are expected to follow the requirements of Title V, Title IX, and California State University (CSU) Executive Orders and adhere to the CSUBIOTECH Principles of Professional Behavior and values. Non-CSU participants who do not follow these expectations may be asked to leave a CSUBIOTECH event or activity and/or prohibited from participation in future CSUBIOTECH events or activities. Individuals can report incidents immediately to the CSUBIOTECH designee to facilitate this process.

- 2) Individuals found in violation of Title V or [IX](#) or [CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097](#) are not eligible to receive CSUBIOTECH funding or participate in CSUBIOTECH program activities for a period of 5 years from the final substantiation of the violation or the end of any current grant award, whichever is later. Faculty who are found to be in violation before funds are transferred for an award, will be ineligible to receive funds for the award.
- 3) After a five year ineligibility period, individuals found in violation of relevant policy for a second time lose eligibility for all future CSUBIOTECH funding or participation in CSUBIOTECH related activities permanently. [Relevant CSU Executive Orders include:](#)
  - a. Executive Order 1095 Revised (Systemwide Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking Policy);
  - b. Executive Order 1096 Revised (Systemwide Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking against Employees and Third Parties and Systemwide Procedure for Addressing Such Complaints by Employees and Third Parties); and
  - c. Executive Order 1097 Revised (Systemwide Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation, Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking against Students and Systemwide Procedure for Addressing Such Complaints by Students) may be found at the following website address: <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/>.

#### Certifications

- 1) CSUBIOTECH will include the Statement of Principles on Professional Behavior (section III above) in event registration processes. Event participants will be asked to acknowledge the principles.
- 2) Applications for CSUBIOTECH funding, award opportunities, or event registrations will include the following certifications:
  - a. Applicants will indicate whether they have been found in violation of Title V, Title IX, or CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 in the last 5 years.
  - b. Applicants will allow the campus to disclose to the CSUBIOTECH program office any substantiated violations of Title V, IX, or CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097.

#### Reporting Procedures:

- 1) Incidents that involve CSU faculty, staff, or students only
  - a. Individuals who believe there has been a violation of Title V, IX, or Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 at a CSUBIOTECH event or activity should report the event following CSU policy and procedures on their home campus.
  - b. Prior to transfer of grant or awards to campus, CSUBIOTECH will ask for campus confirmation that the awardee has not been found in violation of Title V, Title IX, or Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 in the prior 5 years. The campus information provided will include only the existence of a final, substantiated violation and the date of the violation. The information will be kept confidential in the CSUBIOTECH program office.
- 2) Incidents that involve non-CSU individuals
  - a. Suspected violations of Title V, Title IX, or Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 by participants not affiliated with the CSU should be reported to CSUBIOTECH administration immediately. Participants may also e-mail CSUBIOTECH administration to report at a later date, if so desired.

#### **Post-Award Reporting Requirements:**

Successful PIs are required to submit final report to the CSUBIOTECH within 90 days of the project end date. Detailed instructions and the link to the CSUBIOTECH Seed Grant Reporting System are available (<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/csUPERB/Pages/grants-administration.aspx>) in the "Final Grant Reporting" section of the CSUBIOTECH website. Final reports

document the need for and help justify continuation of the program. CSUBIOTECH may also contact PIs and co-PIs for longer-term impact reporting.

Successful PIs and their students are strongly encouraged to present the results of their CSUBIOTECH-funded project at the January 2025 or 2026 Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium.

### **Program Contacts:**

Submission questions:

[csuperb@sdsu.edu](mailto:csuperb@sdsu.edu) or  
tgadd@sdsu.edu

Program and RFP questions:

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