



UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
CENTER FOR WILDLIFE HEALTH
SEED GRANT PROGRAM FY2016



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 28 AUGUST 2015 AT 5:00 PM

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) Center for Wildlife Health (CWH) was established in 2003 to advance research, education, and outreach in wildlife and zoonotic diseases. The mission of the CWH has foundation in the global **One Health Initiative**, which recognizes that the health of humans is inextricably linked to the health of animals and the environment. In 2013, the CWH formed an Organized Research Unit (ORU) with support from University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK) Office of Research & Engagement, and matching funds provided by UTIA AgResearch and College of Veterinary Medicine. **The goal of the CWH-ORU is to foster new research collaborations on wildlife or zoonotic diseases between UTK, UTIA, and ORNL scientists.** This goal is achieved through a seed grant program for pilot research, travel grants, and seminars with prominent scientists. For FY14 and FY15, the CWH-ORU awarded \$100,000 in seed grants to scientists among nine UTK-UTIA departments. For FY16, the CWH-ORU will award an additional \$80,000 in seed grants, and is currently accepting new proposals through **Friday, 28 August 2015**.

Research Seed Grants

- **\$10,000: eight proposals will be funded**

Eligibility: At least two faculty per proposal: one must be affiliated with UTK and one with UTIA. ORNL scientists who have an adjunct or joint appointment with UTK or UTIA are eligible and encouraged to apply but similar to UTK and UTIA scientists, they must collaborate with at least one scientist in a different UT administrative unit.

Support can be used for personnel (excluding PI salary and benefits), supplies, and minor equipment. Seed grants may not be used for faculty salaries, administrative supplements, additional pay, course release time, administrative/accounting supports or other costs generally supported by department (e.g. telephone, network ports). Salary for students and research personnel supported on extramural funds is allowed. Seed grant funds can be used to support travel associated with data collection, but cannot be used for travel to conferences, workshops, or meetings with professionals (see CWH-ORU Travel Grant Program).

One purpose of the seed grants is to generate new information to increase competitiveness of future extramural grant proposals. As such, the CWH-ORU requires that the lead investigator of an awarded seed grant submit at least one extramural grant proposal by 31 December 2016. The Tennessee Electronic Research Administration (TERA) affiliated departments field should be used to recognize the UTIA CWH contributions in extramural grant proposals. Additionally, the UTIA CWH should be acknowledged as a contributor in all publications or presentations resulting from seed grants.

Other Requirements

- All CWH-ORU funds must be spent by 15 June 2016
- \$500 of the seed grant must be budgeted to support CWH operations.

- The lead investigator will be required to submit a progress report by 31 July 2016 and final report by 31 December 2016 (note: a report template will be provided).
- Attendance at CWH sponsored seminars is required.
- Note: Investigators may submit more than one proposal

Judging Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a scientific advisory board selected by the CWH-ORU leadership team.

Proposals must address a contemporary topic in wildlife or zoonotic disease. Applicability of the proposed project to the mission of the CWH-ORU (<http://wildlifehealth.tennessee.edu/oru/index.htm>) and general scientific merits will be evaluated.

Award Expectations:

- (1) At least, one extramural research proposal will be submitted before 31 December 2016,
- (2) At least, one peer-refereed journal publication will be produced,
- (3) At least, two conference presentations will be delivered, and
- (4) At least, two early career scientists (e.g., students, technicians, research associates) will be trained.

Applicants are encouraged to describe how productivity metrics 1 – 4 will be achieved. It is expected that seed grants result in \$20,000 and \$40,000 in new extramural grants awarded during years 1 and 2, respectively, following the award. Investigators that submit competitive proposals and did not receive CWH-ORU funds in the past will be given funding priority. Proposals that are submitted by applicants who received CWH ORU funds previously and have not met the above productivity metrics will not be considered.

Application and Schedule

- (1) Proposal (3 page limit, 1 inch margins, 12 point font, single spaced) containing: Title of the project; List of participants; Abstract (one paragraph); Background and significance; Approach; Management plan (delineating how the team of researchers will collaborate); Budget justification (if students are supported, indicate degree that is being sought); and anticipated Productivity Metrics, such as a list of future extramural funding opportunities the PIs intend to target and estimated proposal amount, list of conferences where results will be presented, list of early career scientists that will be trained, and target journal where results will be published.
- (2) NSF/NIH-style biosketch (3-page limit) for each of the Principal Investigators. Support letters from collaborators (optional).

Applications should be sent electronically to CWH-ORU Associate Director, Dr. Shigetoshi Eda at seda@utk.edu, no later than **28 August 2015 at 5:00 pm**. Applicants will be notified of awards before 15 September 2015. Funds must be spent by 15 June 2016.

