



Center of Excellence  
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## **Catalyst Grants for Research** Center of Genomics and Bioinformatics University of Tennessee

The Center of Excellence for Genomics and Bioinformatics is soliciting requests for funds from investigators, students, departments, and interdisciplinary groups interested in applying and promoting functional genomic approaches to problems in biomedical research. To catalyze research at the interface between biology, medicine, genomics, and informatics we will award several types of grants:

- A. Individual Pilot Projects and Molecular Resources Center Core support of up to \$10,000/year (~20 awards/year)
- B. Collaborative Research Program Awards of up to \$50,000 (~5 awards/year)
- C. Travel Awards in Genomics and Bioinformatics for researchers to attend genomics and bioinformatics conferences
- D. Grant Application Support Funds
- E. Support for Symposia and Seminars

Applications will be accepted two times per year (June 15 and January 15). Application is by email (see procedures at the end of this letter). **Investigators currently funded by COE catalyst grant program are ineligible.**

Common criteria and features of these grant programs:

1. The applicant should have a primary appointment at the University of Tennessee. Administrative units requesting support must be part of the University of Tennessee. Students and fellows must be registered or closely affiliated with the University of Tennessee.
2. The application must be related to the mission of the COE in Genomics and Bioinformatics.
3. We encourage applications that overlap areas of interest of other Centers of Excellence and linked proposals to two or more COEs will be considered favorably.

**A: Individual Pilot Projects and Molecular Resource Center (MRC) Core Support.** These grants are intended to help generate preliminary results suitable for subsequent grant applications. Funds should be used primarily for supplies and minor equipment and not for the purchase of equipment. The project should be a new research direction rather than a continuation. We expect that the majority of applications will come from faculty. For core support, please familiarize yourself with the MRC facilities and areas of competence by visiting their web site.

**B: Collaborative Research Program Award.** Like Individual Pilot Projects awards, Collaborative awards are intended to lead to subsequent grant applications. The level of funding is considerably higher (\$50,000 per year) because our goal is to support program project applications. The team should be led by a PI from UT and at least one other UT coinvestigator, but other coinvestigators may be recruited from outside of the UT system. We recommend that these applications be accompanied with a letter of support by the Dean or Research Director of the appropriate college. The program should represent an expanded research direction with a multidisciplinary approach that includes a strong genomics or bioinformatics component. Investigators who receive these awards will be requested to make presentations to the review committee. The COE will provide some administrative support and oversight of these projects. In general, support will be limited to one year, but if good progress is made and second year may be requested, usually with a total cap of \$75,000.

**C: Travel Award.** These awards are intended to help defray part of the travel expenses of students and postdoctoral fellows who attend research meetings, symposia, and short courses in genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics. A letter of support from the mentor or chair of the department or program is needed with the applications.

**D: Grant Application Support.** These awards are intended to help strengthen large grant applications by providing expertise in the grant application process. We will also provide letters of support to accompany grant applications and provide a pledge to help support the research activity. Please contact the director or co-directors of the COE at as early a stage as feasible. Support for assembling and editing large grant applications is included as part of this program.

**E: Support for Symposia and Seminars.** The COE will work with individual departments or COEs to provide partial support for symposia and seminars that will help catalyze research interests and generate enthusiasm for R01 or programmatic grants.

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**Common Application Procedure**

1. All applicants should send an initial letter of intent with a synopsis of the application or request by email to [CGBGRANTS@utm.edu](mailto:CGBGRANTS@utm.edu). We will acknowledge receipt and confirm that the application is appropriate for support from this COE.
2. The turn-around time for different types of applications will not be uniform. We expect most applications will be reviewed and either funded or not funded within three months of receipt.
3. Please direct follow-up inquires to [rwilliam@nb.utm.edu](mailto:rwilliam@nb.utm.edu)

