

## The Fisher Center Impact Award (FCIA) - Frequently Asked Questions 2027

### Program Goals

- **Can the FCIA project be a collaborative effort with colleagues at another JHU school, university or another facility?**  
Yes. One goal of the Fisher Center Discovery Program (FCDP) is to promote novel, cross-disciplinary, collaborative clinical research within the Hopkins community and with our non-Johns Hopkins counterparts.

### Eligibility

- **My JHU faculty appointment is pending. May I apply as a Principal Investigator (PI) for an FCIA?**  
No. Your appointment must be in place when you apply. A current full-time Johns Hopkins faculty member will be required to serve as PI. The applicant must also be a current full-time Johns Hopkins faculty member.
- **I am a part-time JHU faculty member. May I apply as a PI for an FCIA?**  
No. The PI and the applicant, who may or may not be the same person, must be full-time Johns Hopkins faculty members.
- **I have a faculty appointment in one school at Johns Hopkins (e.g., the School of Medicine); however, I am a student at another school at Johns Hopkins (ex., PhD candidate in the Bloomberg School of Public Health). May I serve as a PI through the school where I am a student?**  
No. You must be a faculty member of the school where you wish to conduct the study.
- **I am a faculty member in a school at Johns Hopkins, but my primary appointment and lab are at Kennedy Krieger Institute. May I submit an FCIA application as a PI?**  
Yes. If you are a full-time Johns Hopkins faculty member, you are eligible to apply as PI.
- **My primary faculty appointment is at another university. May I submit an FCIA application as a PI?**  
No. Only full-time Johns Hopkins University faculty members may apply as PIs; however, faculty from another university may serve as a co-investigator or consultant on the research team.
- **Can a JHU medical school student, included on the FCIA research team, also receive funds from the JHU School of Medicine?**  
The JHU SOM matriculated candidate for the M.D. degree may independently apply to the JHU SOM for supplemental funding through JHU SOM programs. JHU SOM research programs are separate from the FCDP. As such, the student is responsible for complying with all JHU SOM requirements regarding the application, completion and administration of JHU SOM programs.
- **Can a JHU medical school student who is included on the FCIA research team receive academic credit from the JHU School of Medicine?**  
Work accomplished on behalf of the FCDP may not be credited toward achieving an academic degree without the written permission of the JHU SOM.

- **I am submitting an FCIA proposal; however, I also want to submit a pared-down FDCA proposal to increase my chances of winning an award. Is this allowable?**

An applicant may submit proposals to the FCIA and FDCA; however, the grant applications should differ substantially in their aims. If the two proposals are similar, the Fisher Center will ask the applicant to withdraw one submission.

A faculty member may not serve as PI on more than one application. A faculty member may only serve as PI on one submitted FDCA application or on one submitted FCIA application.

## Project Topics

- **What does the phrase “Environmental Infectious Diseases” mean?**

Environmental ID includes human disease-causing pathogens that arise mainly in environments, which differ from diseases transmitted primarily from human to human. Examples include pathogens that typically reside in the air, soil and water, as well as vector-borne or zoonotic diseases. Human pathogens associated with built environments (e.g., homes, hospitals, and communities; for example, MDR Gram-negative pathogens in hospital rooms) also qualify.

- **What clinical research topics are exciting to the Fisher Center Discovery Program?**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the section *Project Topics* (pages 4-5 of the [FCIA Application Guidelines 2027](#)). The FCIA funds understudied or underfunded environmental infectious diseases and topics related to antimicrobial research and post-infectious disease conditions. Projects should address aspects affecting human health in North America. Other favorable components may include the potential for a broad impact and the applicant being an early career investigator.

Other than environmental infectious diseases, two different topics that will be supported include a) antimicrobial resistance [with work based in North America unless a cogent rationale is given why an international project would serve domestic US healthcare interests] and b) post-infectious syndromes [e.g., post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome, long COVID, etc.]. Submissions that touch on multiple clinical research topic areas of interest would be especially favored.

- **What clinical research topics are generally *not* funded by the Fisher Center Discovery Program?**

Because FCDP's mission is to provide funding for understudied or underfunded environmental infectious diseases and topics related to antimicrobial research and post-infectious disease conditions, conditions well-funded by other mechanisms and entities typically do not qualify for FCDP funding. Some examples of these conditions and diseases are HIV, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, influenza and measles, among others.

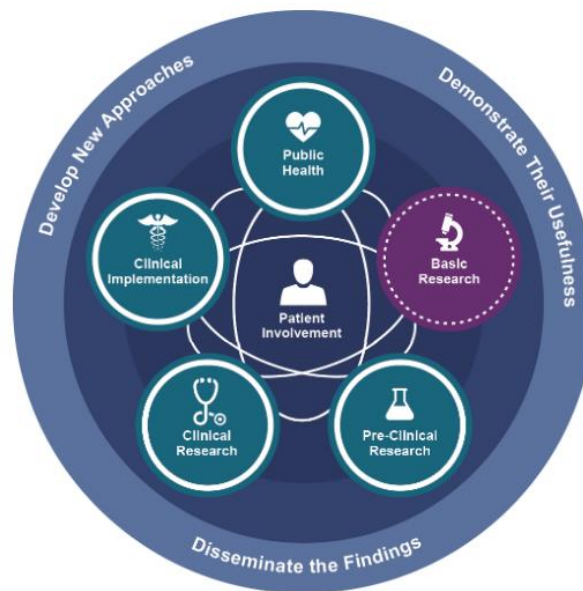
Similarly, because FCDP projects should address conditions affecting human health in North America, conditions that primarily affect other parts of the world typically do not qualify for FCDP funding. Some examples of these conditions and diseases include malaria, yellow fever, dengue, and Ebola, unless substantial arguments are made that the study will benefit public health or patient outcomes in the US.

- **I am primarily a bench researcher. Am I eligible for FCIA funding?**

The Fisher Center is dedicated to clinical and translational research on environmental infectious pathogens aimed at improving the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of infections that cause human disease. We will consider support for laboratory research if it is part of a translational or clinical research project.

- **What is translational research?**

Translational research may be defined as research that facilitates the rapid and efficient translation of basic science findings to clinical applications that enhance human health. To facilitate “bench to bedside” research, the NCRR of NIH launched the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Consortium in 2006, of which the Johns Hopkins ICTR unit is a member. A diagram from the [National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences](#) website succinctly explains the concept of translational research.



Using an integrated approach, CTSA-funded institutions aim to accelerate scientific discovery along the biomedical research continuum, from basic science to patient studies to clinical practice. Information sharing at each stage of the process ensures that researchers are meeting community health needs and that progress in the clinic, in turn, informs the work in the laboratory.

### Monetary Support and the Budget

- **Is FCIA salary support limited to Johns Hopkins University employees?**  
 No. However, the budget must conform to the requirements as outlined in the section *Monetary Support* (page 6 of the [FCIA Application Guidelines 2027](#)), as well as the requirements listed on the [FCIA Budget Template 2027](#)
- **Does the NIH salary cap apply to faculty members on the study team?**  
 No. FCDP does not impose a salary cap. In preparation for the study budget, the actual salaries of the study team members should be used.
- **If a co-investigator is a full Professor, may they receive FCIA salary support?**  
 Yes. Funds may be directed as necessary, but salary support should not exceed 70% of the grant request unless special justification is made. Salary support for junior investigators may be viewed more favorably.
- **Can a JHU undergraduate or graduate student who is included on the FCIA research team receive funding for tuition from the FCIA Award?**

No. Students may receive a stipend for their work on the research study, but FCIA funds cannot reimburse tuition costs.

- **Can a JHU undergraduate or graduate student who is included on the research team receive funding for student health insurance from the FCIA Award?**

No. Students may receive a stipend for their work on the research study, but FCIA funds cannot reimburse student health insurance costs. For salaried Johns Hopkins faculty, fellows, and staff, FCIA funds only cover health insurance costs as part of their employees' "fringe benefits."

- **How does the new unionization of graduate students (effective July 2024) affect FCIA funding? What student expenses are covered by FCIA funds, and what are not?**

The unionization of PhD students does not affect the allowable expenses detailed in the FCIA Application Guidelines, past or current. FCIA funds will still allow student salary, stipend expenses, and fringe benefits. Tuition and travel for conferences are not permitted to be funded by FCIA. Visa fees are reimbursed centrally through a JH Provost's office fund, not FCIA, and union dues are to be paid by the PhD student (not the University, nor FCIA). Any specific questions about whether an expense is allowed under FCIA Guidelines may be directed to Fisher Center Discovery Program Research Manager Diane Lanham at [dlanham1@jhmi.edu](mailto:dlanham1@jhmi.edu)

- **How does a potential unionization of research staff (currently being organized) affect FCIA funding? What research staff expenses are covered by FCIA funds, and what are not?**

Similar to the policy regarding unionization of PhD students, we do not expect that any potential unionization of research staff will affect the previous or current allowable expenses detailed in the FCIA Application Guidelines. If a research staff union is formed and approved during the course of an active FCDP project, any specific questions about whether an expense is allowed under FCIA Guidelines may be directed to the Fisher Center Discovery Program Research Manager, Diane Lanham, at [dlanham1@jhmi.edu](mailto:dlanham1@jhmi.edu)

- **Pending FCIA funding, I plan to hire a new study team member. Is it okay to request FCIA personnel funds now and submit an addendum with that person's full name and credentials if awarded?**

Yes. On the budget template, under the name, write TBN (to be named). List the role accordingly. Example: Research Coordinator, TBN. If funded, awardees will be required to submit a revised budget with the new hire name and role and percentage effort, as well as a CV/Biosketch/Resume for all new study team members not included on the FCIA Application Form.

- **Can I pay for expenses related to conference trips from FCIA funds?**

No. FCIA funds do not cover any expenses related to conference trips for the PI or anyone on the study team.

- **Do I need to report changes in the FCIA study team to the Fisher Center Research Manager?**

Yes. If personnel are to be added to or removed from the initially approved FCIA study team and FCIA-funded personnel, the PI or applicant must inform the Fisher Center Research Program Manager (Diane Lanham: [dlanham1@jhmi.edu](mailto:dlanham1@jhmi.edu)). The PI/Applicant must explain why a change in the study team was needed, submit a revised budget, and submit a biosketch/CV/resume for any new study team members.

- **Can international studies receive FCIA support?**

International projects that have implications for healthcare in North America may be submitted and considered by the FCDP Advisory Board. As part of the Letter of Intent (LOI), applicants should include details regarding why an international proposal is necessary.

- **Do I have to account for indirect costs in the FCIA budget?**

No. Johns Hopkins entities have already accounted for indirect costs, as the research is derived from a philanthropic donation to the School of Medicine. FCIA funds do not cover indirect costs for entities outside Johns Hopkins (e.g., Kennedy Krieger Institute, F.M. Kirby Center). If using an outside entity, applicants/awardees must either request a waiver of indirect costs from that entity or include the indirect costs as a separate line item in the budget submitted as part of their FCIA application.

- **Does the FCIA research go through the Office of Research Administration (ORA)?**

The FCIA is privately funded and, therefore, is not administered by the ORA. However, some subcontracts, such as those for laboratory testing, may require ORA administration. If so, the PI is responsible for interacting with the ORA at their JHU-affiliated school.

- **If awarded, does the FCDP manage my funds?**

No. Awarded funds are released to the PI as an internal order (IO) or cost center (CC) number, per the financial practices of the JHU-affiliated school. Periodic *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Reports* will be required to be generated by the awardee's departmental budget analyst and sent to the Fisher Center Research Manager for review and recordkeeping. Please review the section *Post Award Requirements* (pages 12-14 of the [FCIA Application Guidelines 2027](#)).

The PI is responsible for providing the Fisher Center Research Manager with the contact information for the study budget analyst. The PI/Applicant must also inform the Fisher Center Research Manager if the budget analyst is changed during the award period. **The PI is ultimately responsible for ensuring the study adheres to all terms specified in the *FCIA Award Written Agreement* and the *FCIA Application Guidelines*. Failure to comply with the terms of the *FCIA Award Written Agreement* and/or the *FCIA Application Guidelines* may result in the termination of the award and return of funds, in part or in whole.**

- **Do I need to submit an FCIA budget justification?**

Not necessarily. The budget justification is typically not requested; however, you must provide a written justification if total salary support exceeds 70%. For details, please refer to the Monetary Support section (page 6 of the [FCIA Application Guidelines 2027](#)).

- **If my budget changes during the duration of my project, should I submit a revised budget to the FCDP Manager?**

FCDP understands that unexpected situations and expenses may arise during the study. Submitting an interim 12-month financial report will determine whether the study is on track to meet the expected expenses outlined in the approved application budget. If revisions to the budget result in a  $\geq 10\%$  change to any budget category (e.g., personnel, equipment and supplies, other expenses), you must submit a revised budget and a Request for Reallocation of Funds to the FCDP Manager before making the change. Additionally, if revisions to the budget result in more than 70% of the total budget being allocated to personnel costs, you must submit a revised budget and a Request for Reallocation of Funds form to the FCDP Manager before implementing the changes.

## Study Team

- **What is the difference between an applicant and the PI on the FCIA Application Form?**

Both the applicant and PI of an FCIA application must be full-time Johns Hopkins faculty members. Junior faculty members are encouraged to serve as either an applicant or both applicant and PI on an FCIA application:

- The applicant is the individual submitting the proposal and managing the project as a whole.
- The applicant may present the project for the FCIA-required oral presentations

- The applicant may prepare the FCIA-required written reports

The PI assumes ultimate responsibility for all aspects of the awarded study. The PI may also serve as the applicant, especially if the PI is a junior investigator:

- The PI accepts responsibility for the terms of the FCIA on the *FCIA Written Award Agreement*
- The PI may serve as mentor to the applicant
- The PI oversees the research and day-to-day project leadership
- The PI is the key individual designated by the applicant to direct the project
- The PI must be knowledgeable in all technical aspects of the proposed work and capable of leading the research effort
- The PI is responsible for the project's design, execution, oversight, and compliance with all grant requirements
- The PI is responsible for study expenditures and compliance with FCIA funding and budget requirements

- **Who is required to be included on the study team?**

Study team members listed on your application form must include:

- The PI (listed at the top of the form)
- All co-investigators (regardless of whether they are receiving salary support)
- All other individuals who will be receiving salary support from the award (including students who will receive a stipend from the award)
- All individuals making a significant contribution to the study's work should be included as study team members, regardless of whether they are receiving salary support from the award.

- **Are collaborators required to be included on the study team?**

If a proposal involves a collaborator making a significant contribution to the study's work but not receiving salary support, list the collaborator as a co-investigator on the study team on the *FCIA Application Form*. However, do not include the collaborator in the budget, and please provide their biosketch.

- **Are students required to be included on the study team?**

- Students who will receive a stipend for participating in the proposal must be included as a study team member on the *FCIA Application Form* and on the *FCIA Budget Template*. A biosketch, CV or resume is required for students receiving stipends.
- Students working on the study for class credit should also be listed on the study team, but not on the budget. A biosketch, CV or resume is required for students included on the study team.
- Students volunteering their time to gain work or educational experience should be listed on the study team if they make significant contributions to the study. A biosketch, CV or resume is required for students included on the study team.

- **Are float staff required to be included on the study team?**

Generally, float staff and temporary staff (ex., float nurses and hematologists) are not required to be included on the study team unless the study requires study-specific training, or the individual is making a significant contribution to the study, and/or if they will be receiving salary support from the award. They may be included on the study team if the applicant/PI desires; however, do not include them on the *FCIA Budget Template* if they will not receive support from the award. A biosketch, CV or resume is required for everyone included on the study team, regardless of whether they receive support from the award.

- **Are service center staff required to be included on the study team?**

If a study proposal is a human subjects study and is using a service center (ex. FM Kirby Center for Imaging, ICTR CRU, etc) or a pool of personnel (ex. JH radiologists, JHOC phlebotomists, JH Path lab techs, etc) and does not have a dedicated individual assigned to the study, these individuals are typically not included as study team members on the application form. However, if a dedicated individual performs study procedures and/or the proposal requires study-specific training (e.g., an MRI technician performing a study-specific fMRI task), include that individual on the study team. A biosketch, CV or resume is required for everyone included on the study team.

- **Are lab staff required to be included on the study team?**

If the study proposal is a lab study and/or uses a dedicated research lab, the lab director is typically listed as a Co-Investigator on the study team, and lab staff are not included as study team members. However, if a dedicated individual performs study procedures and/or the proposal requires study-specific training, include that individual on the study team. A biosketch, CV or resume is required for everyone included on the study team.

- **I plan to hire a study team member, but I have not identified them yet. How do I list them on the study team?**

If you plan to hire a study team member (e.g., graduate student) for your proposal and they will receive salary support or a stipend, but the individual has not yet been identified, please list them as TBN on both the *FCIA Application Form* and the *FCIA Budget Template*. Once the individual has been identified, please email their biosketch, CV or resume to the Fisher Center Research Manager (Diane Lanham: [dlanham1@jhmi.edu](mailto:dlanham1@jhmi.edu)). A revised budget may also be required that includes the new hire's name, role on the study, percentage effort and any applicable changes to the personnel budget.

- **I have a Co-PI. How do I list them on the study team?**

The term "Co-Principal Investigator" (Co-PI) is not recognized by the JHM IRB, the FDA or industry sponsors; therefore, for consistency, Co-PIs are not recognized by the FCDP. One individual must take responsibility for the study, even if the effort is shared equally. **Please select one person as the PI** and list the intended co-PI as a Co-Investigator (Co-I). You may explain in your research protocol (or in your budget justification, should you submit one) that study responsibilities and effort will be shared equally between the PI and the Co-I.

## Application Documents

- **Do the FCIA protocol citations need to be in a specific format?**

No. Please use the citation format most commonly used in your JHU-affiliated school.

- **Are biosketches required with my FCIA application?**

While an NIH-style biosketch is preferred, you may substitute a CV or résumé when a biosketch is unavailable. A biosketch, CV, or résumé is required for any individual receiving salary support from the award. A biosketch, CV, or résumé is also required for any individual included as a study team member on the *FCIA Application Form*.

- **Some of my FCIA research team members do not have a biosketch, curriculum vitae, or résumé. Are these documents essential?**

Yes. The PI and co-investigators' biosketches, CVs, or résumés must in the submitted application package. In addition, these documents are required for all grant-funded personnel, including research nurses, study coordinators, laboratory personnel, technicians, etc. The biosketch, CV, or résumé provides the reviewers with background information on the research team, including education, experience, and research interests. Since a

biosketch, CV, or résumé is an essential component of an academic career, it is good practice for all members of a research team, regardless of faculty status, to maintain a current biosketch, CV, or résumé.

- **Do I need to submit a biosketch *and* a CV with my FCIA application?**  
No, please submit one or the other. Do not submit both a biosketch and a CV. Because it is typically shorter, an NIH-style biosketch is preferred.
- **Is there a specific format or template for the FCIA biosketch, CV, or résumé?**  
You may submit the biosketch, CV, or résumé using the current template for the team member's JHU-affiliated school or current institution. **Please number the document pages and submit each biosketch, CV or résumé as a separate document with your FCIA application.**
- **Is a letter of support required if the FCIA co-investigators are JHU faculty members?**  
As the applicant and PI are required to be full-time Johns Hopkins faculty members, letters of support are not necessary; however, they may be provided with the application. The reviewers prefer letters of support from co-investigators on the research team, especially those not JHU-affiliated. Letters of support show reviewers that co-investigators are committed to the research project and will provide support. This letter of support is not required, but it may help reviewers and is therefore strongly encouraged.

#### Submission of the Application Package

- **Where do I find the FCIA application?**  
The application form and supporting documents are available on the Infectious Diseases website, Fisher Center pages: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/infectious-diseases/research/centers-labs-and-programs/environmental-infectious-diseases/fisher-center-impact-award> Applicants may also contact the Fisher Center Research Manager (Diane Lanham: [dlanham1@jhmi.edu](mailto:dlanham1@jhmi.edu)) to request any necessary documents.
- **What completed documents should be included in the final FCIA application package?**
  - *FCIA Application Form 2027* (PDF fillable form)
  - Research Protocol
  - *FCIA Budget Template 2027* (must use the provided template)
  - Budget justification (only required if salaries exceed 70% of the monetary request)
  - Biosketch, curriculum vitae (CV), or résumé of the PI and all co-investigators, as well as for all research team members – must be sent as separate documents
  - Letters of Support (not required, but encouraged for co-investigators, especially those not JHU-affiliated) – must be sent as separate documents
- **How do I apply for the FCIA and send supporting documents?**  
Send the completed FCIA application package in a single email, if possible, to [fishercenter@jhmi.edu](mailto:fishercenter@jhmi.edu)
- **I cannot submit all components of the FCIA application package in one email. What should I do?**  
If the documents exceed the email file size, please send the remaining documents in a second email and indicate in the first email that they will be sent separately.

**APPLICATION DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER NOVEMBER 20, 2026, at 11:59 PM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## Contact Us

Our staff is here to help you. Please feel free to contact us:

### **The Sherrilyn and Ken Fisher Center for Environmental Infectious Diseases**

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Website [Fisher Center Discovery Program](#)

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/infectious-diseases/research/centers-labs-and-programs/environmental-infectious-diseases/fisher-center-impact-award>