

Pathogen Genomic Surveillance and Immunology in Asia

Application Instructions

Information required for application

Please refer to the following guidelines as you prepare your application to the RFP “Pathogen Genomic Surveillance and Immunology in Asia”.

Your application includes:

- Applicant profile and information – completed via our [application portal](#)
- Proposal – uploaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF file
 - Maximum 2 pages
 - Figures and references are included in this page count
- Budget table and narrative (1 page, use [template provided](#)) - uploaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF file

Please note that templates for the proposal and budget narrative and table can be found within the application portal within the corresponding upload task. Details on each section can be found below.

Applicant Profile

To begin your application, please click on the “Apply for this opportunity” button at the top of the challenge page. Through this link, you will be able to access the “Pathogen Genomic Surveillance and Immunology in Asia” program. Either create a new account, or log-in to the system if you have previously created an account and begin your application by filing out the applicant profile.

Proposal File – 2 pages maximum

Proposal Format

Your proposal must be formatted as follows.

- No longer than 2 pages maximum
- 11-point font or larger
- At least 0.5” margins all around
- Single line spacing
- Standard character spacing (neither expanded nor condensed)
- Arial or Times New Roman font
- Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF filetype
- Entire file size of 3MB or less
- Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

Applications that do not adhere to these restrictions may be blocked from submission and review.

Proposal Content

Along with this application instructions document, we encourage you to reference the request for proposals overview document and the challenge rules and guidelines to ensure that your proposal responds to the challenge. You are required to submit either a Microsoft Word® or PDF® document; no more than 2 pages in length describing your project as well as a one-page budget table and narrative. Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

Please include the following in your application: (suggested lengths in parentheses)

1. Introductory information (1/2 page):
 - A short description of the specific problem your proposal addresses
 - Indicate in one or two sentences **in bold** the essence of your idea for a solution (1-2 sentences)
 - Why your idea is unconventional or creative
2. Proposal information (1 page):
 - A clear hypothesis for the proposed work
 - A brief description of the work you will undertake to achieve proof of concept for your idea
 - What essential data you expect to generate
3. Path to impact: What would your next steps be if you are successful in this work? How would you bring your idea to impact? (1/2 page)

All Asia PGI proposals must:

- Describe the framework used to prioritize the chosen pathogen or syndrome
- Describe in brief the SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance system in place
- Describe how staff can immediately put to use pathogen genomic sequencing technology at your site to respond to at least one of the Asia PGI objectives listed above.
- Describe how skills will be developed in sequencing of the priority pathogen chosen
- Describe the sampling approach for obtaining specimens for genomic sequencing and how the sampling approach will be optimized to answer at least one of the objectives outlined above. In addition, describe how metadata and clinical, epidemiological, or other data will be collected and combined with the sequencing data.
- Describe how the data generated from your project will be used to inform public health decision making in your area, country and/or region in a timely manner. How will you communicate your findings and engage with stakeholders to ensure uptake and use of your findings for these public health purposes? We expect that PGS data will be shared immediately with local government health officials as well as uploaded to a standard repository for genetic data such as GISAID, NCBI, or ENA.
- Articulate how the capacity built through the proposed project will strengthen your institute's approach to using pathogen genomics for surveillance.

All GIISER-Asia proposals must:

- Describe the site’s ability to link together pathogen sequencing, clinical epidemiology, and immunology to rapidly produce high-quality, interpretable and informative data on neutralization breadth and cross protection for locally identified SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, outgrowth of variant SARS-CoV-2 virus in appropriate BLS3 containment labs for live virus neutralization assays. Examples of anticipated results: [Cele et al Nature 2021](#), [Moyo-Gwete et al NEJM 2021](#), [Shen et al NEJM 2021](#) and [Wibmer et al Nature Medicine 2021](#).
- Describe how, within the first year of the grant, the GIISER site will bring all required binding and neutralization assays into their lab and communicate their results.
- Describe how, within the second year of the grant, the GIISER site will be communicating results within 1-2 months of identifying a variant of local concern.
- Describe how the site will leverage existing local expertise, collaborate, and share data effectively with other GIISER sites and international networks

Budget Table and Narrative – 1 page maximum

Please use the [budget template](#) (linked and on the application portal) to include a breakdown of allowable direct costs under the following categories.

- Personnel
- Subcontracts
- Subgrants
- Capital Assets/Equipment
- Travel
- Supplies
- Other Expenses
- Indirect Costs (please review the [Indirect Cost Policy](#))

Additionally, please provide a one (1) paragraph Budget Narrative to explain the major cost drivers and how costs relate to planned activities and target outcomes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to many application questions can be found on the frequently asked questions document.

Inquiries

Please direct all questions about this initiative, selection criteria or application instructions by e-mail to the following address: grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org