SDB INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

Goals: The goal of this funding initiative is to provide seed funds for those seeking to develop innovative tools and methods with the potential to have a broad impact on the Developmental Biology community. Proposed work can include devices, software, novel methods, or new reagents, but is not intended to support those seeking training or the application of existing technologies from one species to another. Preference will be given to those projects that would not necessarily be supported through other means. Proposals should clearly outline the precise aspects of the project that these funds would support.

Eligibility: Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty are all eligible. The applicant should be an SDB member in good standing or, if applying as part of a collaborative effort, at least one member of the collaborative team, preferably the project leader, should be a current SDB member.

Awards: One-time awards of up to $5,000 each will be granted for research expenses, or other reasonable costs associated with the project, excluding travel.

Applications: Two grants will be awarded each calendar year. Applications are due at 11:59 PM (ET) on December 1 for awards commencing on or after February 1, and July 1 for awards commencing on or after September 1. Please note, if two grants are awarded from the December 1 deadline, we will not be taking applications for July 1. Therefore, we strongly advise you to submit your application by the December 1 deadline. In years in which the deadline falls on a weekend, applications will be accepted until 11:59 PM (ET) of the following Monday.

The application must include the following and be submitted online:

1. Project Title
2. Name, position, affiliation, and contact information of the applicant(s); SDB membership of applicants should be indicated. For team proposals, each applicant’s role in the project must be included.
3. Grant Application Packet PDF.
   a. File Should be Titled “SDB Innovation Grant [Applicant’s Last Name]”. All Pages should have the header “SDB Innovation Grant [Applicant’s Last Name]”
   b. Curriculum vitae of applicant(s).
   c. If applicant is a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow, a letter from the mentor supporting the application is required and should state what the mentor will provide to facilitate the work. A separate mentor letter is required for each graduate student or postdoctoral fellow listed in the application.
   d. A two-page proposal (length does not include references.) The proposal should include the following:
      • A title and a one paragraph summary stating the purpose and rationale for the project
      • Description of research goals, and how the proposed work will have an impact on the field and on the applicant’s career development.
      • Novelty of the approach or system; justification for SDB INNOVATION funding.
      • Feasibility of accomplishing goals, including a timeline. Proposed projects may
last up to one year.

- Dissemination plan: successful applicants will be required to submit written summaries or videos of their funded work for posting and dissemination on the SDB website and are encouraged to submit any completed research arising from the award for consideration for publication in Developmental Biology. The SDB INNOVATION award should be mentioned in the "Acknowledgements" section of any arising publications.

e. A one-page budget. Allowable budget items include consumables, supplies, research costs, small equipment costs, etc. Justification should be provided. Note that all funded expenses are direct costs. Not allowed are indirect costs, travel, salaries, or fringe. Please itemize costs and provide a total amount requested up to a maximum of $5,000.

f. A signed statement from the applicant’s home institution’s Institutional Official certifying that all relevant safety protocols and regulatory approvals are in place and that appropriate facilities are available for the proposed project, and that the home institution is fiscally responsible for administration of the award. This statement should include a waiver of indirect costs on the award.

Compile your entire application and submit online at: https://form.jotform.com/92553435044152

Review Process: A committee of SDB Board members will review each proposal for scientific soundness, feasibility, thematic and budgetary appropriateness using the criteria outlined above. Their recommendations will be discussed and voted on for funding decisions at the Board meetings (held in January and July/August). If necessary, changes or additional information may be requested before a final decision is made.

Upon Completion of the Award: Within three months of the completion date of the award, a research summary (either a narrative of 500-2000 words or a video) must be submitted summarizing the project. Based on the awarded project, a description of accomplishments, results, techniques, pitfalls, limitations, plans for future work, are all appropriate. These research summaries will be posted on the SDB website.

May 2020