



Integrative Center for Microbiomes and Human Health COBRE Core Bucks Program 2022 Call for Proposals



PURPOSE:

This announcement aims to provide guidelines and criteria for proposal submission for a **Core Bucks Voucher Program** supported by The [Integrative Center for Microbiomes and Human Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence](#). The “Microbiome COBRE” examines the interface between environmental microbes and human health outcomes. Our objectives are to build the foundation needed to grow a cadre of future leaders and mentors in microbiome research, support research that leverages Hawaii’s unique biotic and environmental diversity to investigate microbiome-host interactions, and to broadly disseminate research outcomes and to our local communities, throughout the State of Hawaii, and beyond.

MICROBIOME CORE BUCKS VOUCHER PROGRAM:

The Microbiome Core Bucks aims to support microbiome research at UH, to promote the services of our research Core facilities, and to allow faculty to partner with our Microbiome Research Center.

The goal of the Microbiome Core Bucks Program is to provide funds to investigators to further (or initiate) their research on microbiomes by awarding Core Bucks to be used in any of the following Cores for studies related to environmental microbiomes and their potential impacts on host or environmental health: [MICRO](#) (Microscopy Core), [MGAL](#) (Microbial Genomics Core), and [InSTAR](#) (Insectary Core). Awards will be granted in the form of vouchers to defray the cost of Core services, no additional funding will be provided for expenses such as personnel, materials, shipping or IDC.

For proposers requesting to use a Core facility for the first time (New Users), we will consider award amounts between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

For proposals requesting to use a Core that the PI has used in the past five years, proposers are eligible for a 50% discount on Core services totaling up to \$10,000 (for example, proposers would provide up to \$5,000 in matching funds for up to \$10,000 in Core services). Minimal Core usage (totaling less than \$500 in the past 5 years) will not count against eligibility for new usership.

APPLICATION DEADLINE & AWARD DATE:

First evaluation of awards will be November 28, and we will accept proposal at any time thereafter until funds are exhausted. **FUNDS MUST BE SPENT BY July 31, 2023**

ELIGIBILITY:

Faculty members, postdocs and researchers authorized to serve as PI on grants at the University of Hawai‘i (system) and partnering clinical settings (Kapiolani, Queen’s, etc.) are eligible to apply. Graduate students are not eligible. PIs with current major funding from NIH infrastructure grants awarded in Hawai‘i, such as COBREs, INBREs, and Ola HAWAII may not be eligible and should seek approval for eligibility first. PIs may only receive one Core Bucks Voucher per fiscal year.

Proposed research must concern microbiomes, and/or microbiome impacts on host and environmental health. We are particularly keen to fund proposers whose research does not contain, but would be strengthened by the addition of, a microbiome component. Priority will be given to projects meeting more than one of the following criteria:

1. Proposer is tenured or tenure-track faculty (or other highly stable clinical appointment)

2. Proposer has NIH New or Early-Stage investigator status
3. High likelihood work will result in a publication
4. High likelihood work will result in external funding to support research

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit the following documents compiled into a single pdf by email to marilou@hawaii.edu:

1. A Cover Page containing the title of your proposed project, a list of ICEMHH-supported Core service usage since November 2017 (if any), and a statement certifying your eligibility to submit independent grant proposals through UH.
2. One-page document containing a) a description of your research project, b) how you will leverage Core services for your research, c) thematic alignment with the ICEMHH COBRE, d) planned product(s) from the study, such as publication or targeted grant(s), and a timetable for their completion and, e) your total itemized budget request (based on prices quoted on Core website).
3. NIH or NSF style Biosketch
4. NIH or NSF style Other Support
5. IRB and/or IACUC approval, if applicable

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

A committee of Core directors and the ICEMHH PI will consider: 1) fit of the proposed research to ICEMHH themes, 2) the likelihood that collected data will result in proof-of-concept evidence suitable for grant proposals or publications, 3) history of Core usage, and 4) qualifications and productivity of the proposer. Preference will be given to new Core users, and to researchers for whom microbiome and/or human health are new initiatives.

AWARD REQUIREMENT:

Awardees will submit a brief progress report at the end of the award period. Publications resulting from awards must cite the Microbiome COBRE P20GM125508 using the following language: The project described was supported by NIH Grant Number P20GM125508 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Publications should also acknowledge the Core facility used with recommended language posted on the Core website.

INQUIRIES:

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding announcement. Interested applicants may contact:

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