

คณะเภสัชศาสตร์
เลขที่รับ 5974 5974
วันที่ 28 ธ.ค. 2563
เวลา 12.40
เวลา.....น.



งานบริหารและส่งเสริมการวิจัย  
กองบริหารงานวิจัย มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล  
โทร. 02-849-6252 โทรสาร. 02-849-6247

ที่ อว 78.016/๗๖๖

วันที่ ๒๗ ธันวาคม 2563

เรื่อง การรับข้อเสนอการวิจัยภายใต้หัวข้อ Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science  
เรียน คณบดี / ผู้อำนวยการ

ด้วย International COVID-19 Data Alliance (ICODA) ร่วมกับ Grand Challenges เปิดรับ  
ข้อเสนอการวิจัยภายใต้หัวข้อ Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science เพื่อสนับสนุน  
โครงการวิจัยที่ศึกษาข้อมูลการตอบสนองต่อการแพร่ระบาดของ COVID-19 และยกระดับข้อมูลด้านสุขภาพเพื่อ  
ตอบสนองต่อความท้าทายด้านสุขภาพในอนาคต อาจารย์/นักวิจัยที่สนใจสามารถยื่นข้อเสนอโครงการในระบบ  
ออนไลน์ <https://icoda.cognitive.city/> ตั้งแต่วันนี้จนถึงวันที่ 19 มกราคม 2564 หากได้รับการคัดเลือกทาง  
แหล่งทุนจะแจ้งให้ทางโครงการยื่น Full Proposal ภายในเดือนกุมภาพันธ์ 2564 และสามารถศึกษารายละเอียด  
เพิ่มเติมได้ที่ <https://icoda-research.org/research/our-research/#grandchallenge>

ในกรณีนี้ กองบริหารงานวิจัย มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล จึงขอแจ้งข่าวการเปิดรับการสมัครทุนดังกล่าวมายัง  
ท่านเพื่อโปรดประชาสัมพันธ์ทุนวิจัยดังกล่าวให้บุคลากรในหน่วยงานของท่านทราบโดยทั่วกัน และขอให้ส่วนงาน  
ส่ง Full Proposal มายังมหาวิทยาลัยเพื่อพิจารณาข้อเสนอโครงการและออกหนังสือแนะนำส่งประกอบการสมัครรับ  
ทุนต่อไป

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อโปรดทราบและโปรดประชาสัมพันธ์ข่าวต่อไปด้วย จักขอบคุณยิ่ง

งานบริหารงานวิจัยและนวัตกรรม  
นภัศรา  
28 ธ.ค. 63



(ศาสตราจารย์ นายแพทย์ วชิร ชชการ)

รองอธิการบดีฝ่ายวิจัยและวิชาการ

เขียน คณบดี (แทนอาจารย์)

- โทรไปสอบถาม มหาวิทยาลัย ข้าราชการมีระเบียบแล้ว
- ขอทุนวิจัยภายใต้หัวข้อ Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science
- ผู้ยื่นข้อเสนอการวิจัย (อาจารย์) แก่ คณบดี - 19 ม.ค. 2564 และจัดส่ง Full Proposal ภายใน
- งานวิจัย หรือ จ้างงานที่มหาวิทยาลัย ภายใน 15 ม.ค. 63 อีก
- ติดต่อประสานงานกับ Internet
- สนธิสัญญาฉบับใหม่

นภัศรา 30 ธ 63

นภัศรา คณบดี  
30/12/63

## **Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science pilot programme**

### **Request for Proposals**

#### **1. The opportunity**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its Grand Challenges partners established Grand Challenges to focus attention and effort on major global challenges, and to enable researchers to collaborate and address these in fast, innovative ways. ICODA – the International COVID-19 Data Alliance – is partnering with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges programme to pilot the Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science initiative, supported by the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator. This initiative seeks to support projects that harness the power of health data in a safe and trusted way to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic and have impact, as well as to enhance global health data responses to health challenges of the future.

ICODA is a global alliance of leading life sciences, philanthropic and research organisations that has been convened by Health Data Research UK. It acts as a global hub and supports researchers to address COVID-19 research questions and enable discoveries, through ensuring health data and analytical tools are accessible in a safe, secure and trusted environment.

This pilot initiative is coordinated by ICODA and is an open funding call that seeks to identify and support research studies using health data to address major COVID-19 research questions. It also seeks to involve patients and wider communities in both study design and governance. While this is a global call, priority will be given to research proposals involving researchers from lower and middle-income countries (LMICs). The pilot initiative will be followed by a larger Request for Proposals to be launched late in 2021, and run by global Grand Challenges partners.

Successful research studies for this pilot will have access to the COVID-19 Workbench, a new digital platform that is hosted and operated by Aridhia Informatics Ltd on behalf of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Workbench allows researchers to safely and securely analyse, discover and access global, multi-dimensional datasets, while respecting the conditions of use determined by the organisations that control the data. The selected research studies will also become part of ICODA's portfolio of Driver Projects and shape the further development of processes, tools and infrastructure to enable researchers to make faster progress on the global COVID-19 response.

#### **2. The pilot initiative**

This pilot Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science initiative is an open request for grant proposals. The desired outcome is to fund studies that will facilitate research collaboration among researchers to address major COVID-19 research questions and reduce the harm of the current COVID-19 pandemic, while fostering global, multi-disciplinary collaborations.

Proposals may focus on one of a range of COVID-19 research areas, including: 1) natural disease history, epidemiology and transmission; 2) vaccines and prophylaxis; 3) infection, prevention and control; 4) therapeutics; 5) clinical management.

Selected grantees will work together in close collaboration with ICODA and its partners to further develop processes, tools and governance that maximise the impact of data-focused research studies, as well as to identify and address the global data-related challenges that

might arise. A key objective for this pilot initiative is to lay the groundwork for the 2021 Global Grand Challenge Request for Proposals that will launch at the end of next year.

During this pilot, grantees will have access to the COVID-19 Workbench, a digital research environment to which researchers can bring their own data and work in a safe and trustworthy space to collaborate with others to answer research questions of interest.

Proposals should:

- Be driven by a shared commitment to open science, data sharing, and building collaboration and analysis infrastructure to enable discoveries that will benefit people everywhere
- Seek to strengthen global communities and multi-disciplinary collaboration, particularly from researchers in LMICs, and involve patients and the wider public
- Have access to the datasets needed to address their specific research questions
- Be legally permitted to contribute data and build on ICODA's portfolio of Driver Projects, helping to build infrastructure, processes and governance that are fit for purpose for a wide range of research challenges.

### 3. What we are looking for

We are seeking grant proposals that meet the following criteria:

- Have the potential to be enabled and contribute to the preparation of the 2021 Data Science-focused Global Grand Challenge
- Address research questions that can deliver insights on COVID-19 within 6-12 months of the grant award being made, be scalable and bring demonstrable benefits to patients and populations
- Use clearly defined datasets, with a commitment to providing access to data and all research products (methodology and reproducible results), whilst ensuring appropriate information governance
- Have the potential to be enabled and accelerated by the COVID-19 Workbench, and a commitment to helping develop processes, tools and governance to maximise the impact of data-focused research studies
- Demonstrate a commitment to involving patients and the wider public in design and governance of research studies

Applications are invited from researchers working in healthcare, academia, industry or research foundations, and will be welcomed from any geography, with priority placed on proposals that involve researchers from LMICs.

***The initiative will not provide support for the following:***

- Studies focusing on research questions that are not related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Studies that do not involve clearly defined datasets, and/or aim to collect and generate new data through this funding
- Applicants and their host organisations who are unable to commit to Health Data Research UK's [Terms and Conditions](#). Please note that successful applicants will receive their awards directly from HDR UK, and therefore HDR UK's standard grant award terms and conditions will apply.

### 4. Programme structure

This Request for Proposals is for the Pilot Grant Programme only. This will be followed by the larger global Grand Challenges Request for Proposals, scheduled to launch in the last

quarter of 2021. Funding and scope for that larger Request for Proposals will be determined and announced later in 2021.

### **What we are offering for the Pilot Grant Programme**

Successful proposals will become part of a Data Science Grand Challenges pilot grant programme and be eligible for the following:

- Receive between \$25,000-\$100,000 in funding for 6-12 months from mid-March 2021 onwards
- Become part of a global community that brings together researchers with shared research interests and provides support and inspiration for their work.
- Become ICODA Driver Projects and contribute to the preparation of future Data Science-focused Global Grand Challenges programmes. Successful grantees will play an advisory role in developing these future programmes
- Access to the ICODA Workbench and analytical tools, as well as technical support and training to enable access and support research studies
- Gain facilitated access to additional data sources
- Gain access to processes and resources to implement reproducible research while enabling personal patient data protection.

### **5. Grant Terms and Conditions**

The organisations that host the successful applicants for this grant award scheme will receive their awards directly from Health Data Research UK, and the awards will therefore be subject to Health Data Research UK's standard grant award terms and conditions.

In addition, applicants should commit to ICODA's governance principles:

- Equity in developing a global approach
- Responsible data sharing, respecting the data sharing and privacy preferences of participants
- Transparency of governance and operations
- Proportionate approach to governance based on the 'five safes' GDPR-grade safeguards
- Accountability to best practices in technology, ethics, and public outreach
- Inclusivity by partnering and building trust among stakeholders
- Commitment to share data and information to advance human health
- Innovation and agility to develop an ecosystem that accelerates progress
- Independence through structures and governance
- Commitment to high quality reproducible research through transparency and sharing best practice in analytics.

### **6. Selection criteria**

Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria, as set out in the template below:

- Addresses a core research question using an approach that has potential to have a direct impact on addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic within proposed budget and timeframe of 6-12 months
- Uses well-defined datasets that directly address the core research question
- Engages researchers from different geographies, including LMICs
- Demonstrates a commitment to involve patients and wider communities throughout the project
- Builds on the research team and host institution's experience

- Can contribute to the development of the processes, tools and governance of the COVID-19 Workbench, as well as to the shaping and launch of the Data Science-centred Global Grand Challenges.

**Evaluation template and scoring:**

Section	Criteria	Word limit	Points available
Research study	Proposed research study has the potential to have a direct impact on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic  Impact can be achieved by the end of the project cycle		20  10  NB: Applications that score 0 for these criteria will be de-selected at this stage of the review process
Data	Appropriateness of, and access to, data sets being used to address research question  Appropriateness of data science methods/tools being used to address research question		15  15
Geographical scope	Geographical scope of study: involvement of LMICs and applicability to other regions		10
Patient and public involvement	Patient and public involvement and engagement in study design and governance		10
Experience	Experience of research team and host institutions and capacity to deliver study		10
Budget	Proposed budget is reasonable and enables delivery		10

**7. Application process and timeline**

The call for submissions will be launched on **17 December 2020** and the deadline for initial submissions will be **24.00 UTC on 19 January 2021**.

The application process is as follows:

1. Completion of a short application form: <https://icoda.cognitive.city/>
2. Initial review by an international panel convened by Health Data Research UK and ICODA, including independent reviewers
3. Notification sent to those applicants that have been pre-selected by end January

4. Pre-selected applicants will be invited to make a supplemental submission by mid-February 2021, providing additional information about specific aspects of their project including the data they are proposing to use, methodology, public and patient involvement and engagement, and more detailed information on budget. This supplemental submission should also include:
  - Letter from the applicant's institution acknowledging they have read the Health Data Research UK terms and conditions for grant award holder
5. This supplemental information will then be reviewed by the international panel and a shortlist selected by end Feb 2021
6. Shortlisted projects will be interviewed by a wider review panel, including members of ICODA's Scientific & Strategic Advisory Council, in early March
7. Awards of \$25,000-\$100,000 for a 6 - 12 m duration will be announced in mid-March 2021 and research studies are expected to start as quickly as possible.

The table below summarises the timeline for the Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Sciences initiative:

PHASE 1	
Call for submissions opens	17 Dec 2020
Application deadline	19 Jan 2021
Pre-selected projects announced	End Jan 2021
PHASE 2	
Full proposals submission	Mid Feb 2021
Shortlisted projects announced	End Feb 2021
PHASE 3	
Shortlisted projects interviewed	Early Mar 2021
Funded projects announced	Mid Mar 2021

#### 8. Further guidance

A list of frequently asked questions can be found [here](#). These build on those raised for existing Grand Challenges Data Science initiatives. For further queries, please [contact us](#) and we will aim to address these by **14 Jan 2021** at the latest.

In addition, ICODA will be running an information workshop on **07 Jan 2021**. Please [register here](#) if you are interested in participating.

---

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

#### What is ICODA?

Health Data Research UK has convened the International COVID-19 Data Alliance, which is a global alliance of leading life sciences, philanthropic and research organisations. It acts as a global hub and supports researchers to address COVID-19 research questions and enable discoveries, through ensuring health data and analytical tools are accessible in a safe, secure and trusted environment.

ICODA is partnering with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges programme to pilot the Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 initiative, supported by the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator.

#### Where can I find more information about the funding call, including the Request for Proposals?

More information about this Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science initiative can be found here: <https://icoda-research.org/research/our-research/#grandchallenge>

#### How is this opportunity different from other Requests for Proposals?

This is a pilot programme that will focus on further development of processes, tools and approaches that maximise the impact of data-focused research studies to address the current COVID-19 pandemic. It will also lay the groundwork for the 2021 Global Challenge Request for Proposals that will launch at the end of next year. Selected grantees will not only receive between \$25,000-\$100,000 to address core research questions related to COVID-19 but will become exemplar projects, and part of a facilitated global, multi-disciplinary community supported by ICODA and its partners to further develop processes, tools and infrastructure to best facilitate reproducible research for data-centred projects.

#### How much time do grantees have to implement their projects?

Funded projects will have between 6 to 12 months to implement their projects from the date that the grant is awarded.

#### Will there be an information session for potential applicants?

ICODA and partners will be hosting an information session about this Grand Challenges ICODA COVID-19 Data Science initiative at 14.00 UTC on **07 January 2021**. During this session, we will present details about the opportunity, details about the ICODA Workbench and answer



interested applicants' questions. To attend the event and raise questions, please sign up by 18.00 UTC on **04 Jan 2021** via [link](#).

Questions from potential applicants can also be submitted via the same link, and we commit to responding within four working days. In addition, the FAQs on ICODA's website will be regularly updated to capture queries we have received.

### **Application process and eligibility**

**What is the focus of these Grand Challenges projects? Is it exclusively on clinical care, therapeutics and trials, or is it about broader aspects of the pandemic?**

This is a Data Science focused call. We expect projects of this pilot Grand Challenges call to leverage existing data sets to answer COVID-19 related research questions from a broad range including those that cover:

1. Natural disease history, epidemiology and transmission
2. Vaccines and prophylaxis
3. Infection, prevention and control
4. Therapeutics
5. Clinical management

**How can I submit a proposal?**

All applicants must complete and submit their application through <https://icoda.cognitive.city/>

Applications must be submitted before **19 January 2021 at 24.00 UTC**

**Can I submit my application in a language other than English?**

For this pilot initiative, applications should be made in English.

**Am I able to edit my application after submission?**

Yes, you can still edit your application after formal submission. All edits must be made before **19 January 2021 at 24.00 UTC**

**Can I submit more than one proposal?**

You can only be a lead applicant/principal investigator (PI) for one submitted proposal. However, you can be a team member in other submissions from different host institutions. Furthermore, multiple applications from an institution are allowed, as long as they have different PIs.

**What are the selection criteria?**



The table below summarises the selection criteria that will be considered by the international review panel.

Section	Criteria	Points available
Research study	Proposed research study has the potential to have a direct impact on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic Impact can be achieved by the end of the project cycle	20  10 NB: Applications scoring 0 against these criteria will be de-selected at this stage
Data	Appropriateness of, and access to, datasets being used to address research question Appropriateness of data science methods/ tools being used to address research question	15  15
Geographical scope	Geographical scope of study: involvement of LMICs and applicability to other regions	10
Patient and public involvement	Patient and public involvement and engagement in study design and governance	10
Experience	Experience of research team and host institutions and capacity to deliver study	10
Budget	Proposed budget is reasonable and enables delivery	10

**I don't have international collaborators for this project. Can I still apply?**

Researchers from anywhere in the world are eligible to apply. However, given the multi-disciplinary nature of this call, we recommend including collaborators from different regional or international institutions and researchers, especially from LMICs.

**Who is eligible to apply for this grant?**

The call is open to researchers from anywhere in the world. Researchers based at international organisations, government agencies, research and academic institutions, non-profit organisations and for-profit organisations can apply.

**I'm a postdoc, am I eligible to be a PI?**

Yes, anyone can submit a proposal as long the institution you are affiliated to is able to host the grant and agree to the grant terms and conditions.

**I don't have a funding track record; can I still submit a proposal?**

Yes, anyone can submit a proposal as long the institution you are affiliated to is able to host the grant and agree to the grant terms and conditions.

**I don't have a PhD, am eligible to be a PI?**

Yes, anyone can submit a proposal as long the institution you are affiliated to is able to host the grant and agree to the grant terms and conditions.

## **Data and workbench**

**If I don't have any COVID-19 related data, can I still submit a proposal?**

You don't have to have the data yourself, but you do need to co-apply with data custodians that have relevant data that could be analysed to answer COVID-19 related questions.

**If I have a private dataset I'd like to work with, do I have to make it public?**

No. ICODA and partners recognise that individual-level health data cannot be made openly available. We have review processes to ensure only accredited researchers are able to access data for approved research projects, so all access will be controlled. It is possible to bring private data into a private workspace on the ICODA Workbench to analyse as part of a research project.

We also encourage data contributors to make metadata available to improve searchability.

**Where can I find more information about available data sources?**

We are currently building our library of available datasets and resources. The main focus for this call is to encourage researchers who have already identified datasets to apply for funding.

**Will the funded groups have to do all their data analysis using the Workbench?**

Yes, the ICODA Workbench provides a secure environment for data analysis. If it is not possible to transfer data to the Workbench, we can also work to enable federated access provided the data is hosted in an appropriate research environment. This federated approach allows the analysis request to be sent to the data, rather than having to transfer data to the Workbench.



**Will there be support and advice for funded groups as they engage with the Workbench?**

Yes, absolutely. We have experts who can advise on a number of different aspects of a project, including data governance, data dictionaries, statistical analysis plans, and patient and public involvement and engagement.

**Is there an opportunity for grantees to use their own tools via the workbench?**

Yes. A wide range of tools are already provisioned in the Workbench, but it is also possible for researchers to import their own tools into the Workbench to undertake specific analysis.

**If I contribute data, who will get access to it? Will it be accessible by ICODA/HDR UK and funding partners?**

Access to data is restricted to researchers that have passed through ICODA's review processes. Researchers must be accredited, and research proposals must be approved. We will work with data contributors to agree the governance processes that fit their requirements.

**Will I be able to see the names of the researchers who are accessing my data and their research use statements?**

Yes.

**If I have an idea but don't have enough data to execute it, can I still apply? Can organisers help connect me with data partners?**

At this stage, we expect applicants to have clearly identified datasets for their proposed research studies and have agreement in principle from potential data contributors before submitting an application.

## **Budget**

**Can I use this fund to generate or validate data?**

No, these grants can't be used to generate or collect data. This is a Data Science focused call that aims to leverage existing data sources.

**Is there a maximum budget per project?**

Successful proposals for this challenge will be awarded a seed grant between \$25,000 and \$100,000 for a 6 - 12-month duration to implement their projects. In addition, they will receive the following:

- Access to the ICODA Workbench (see <https://www.aridhia.com/covid-19/> for more information about the Workbench)

- Support with making data accessible and usable
- Statistical expertise
- Membership of a supportive community of data contributors, technical experts and researchers
- Access to content and resources to help them deliver on their commitment to public and patient involvement and engagement

## **Grant terms and conditions**

### **Where can I find the detailed grant terms and conditions?**

The organisations that host the successful applicants for this grant award scheme will receive their awards directly from Health Data Research UK (HDR UK), which convenes ICODA. Therefore, HDR UK's standard grant terms and conditions will apply.

### **Who should sign the grant contract?**

When awarded, the contract needs to be signed by the person or department legally authorised to sign grants on behalf of your host institution.

### **What are the reporting requirements for the grant application?**

Selected projects will be required to provide regular reports on the progress and outcomes of your research every 3 months. More information about how and when to do this will be shared with awarded grantees. Final financial and scientific reports will also be required from grantees.

It is important to note that selected projects will become ICODA Driver Projects and as such, will be expected to contribute to the global community of data scientists and researchers brought together by Grand Challenges and ICODA and to help develop collaborations and shape infrastructure, governance and processes to accelerate progress on managing COVID-19, future pandemics and wider health challenges.

### **Does ICODA publish grant applications received?**

ICODA does not publish applications received. However, ICODA and the Grand Challenges Explorations may publish details of successful awards and their outputs, including the name of the PI, host organisation, project title, a summary of the grant/award and its value.

### **How is intellectual property handled?**

This is a joint initiative between Grand Challenges and ICODA, and supported by the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator. ICODA is convened by Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) and will be the grant awarding organisation, therefore HDR UK's terms and conditions will apply.

### **Are there specific requirements for publishing and sharing data?**

In line with ICODA's commitment to openness and transparency, we expect authors to maximise the opportunities to make their results available for free. ICODA expects authors publishing the outputs of work using data accessed through the ICODA workbench to select publishing routes that ensure the work is available immediately on publication in its final published form, without a paywall or embargo period. We also expect data outputs, such as algorithms/software, to be uploaded to the Health Data Research UK GitHub Organisation repository. For further information, please see [ICODA's publication and attribution policies](#)

### **Project evaluation and community**

**What does a successful project look like, what type of results should this project achieve?**

Selected projects are expected to deliver insights and impact on COVID-19 pandemic management within the proposed budget and time frame of 6-12 months.

They are also ICODA Driver Projects, which will help to test and evaluate processes and procedures for a wider community of researchers, as well as shape and improve the capability of the COVID-19 Workbench. This will require close collaboration and partnering with ICODA, its partners and the wider, global community. A successful project will therefore also help shape a platform that incorporates technology, processes and governance that helps researchers to securely access and work with data, and generate insights more rapidly. This will help to address both the current pandemic and future health challenges more effectively.

**What does being part of the Grand Challenges ICODA Community involve?**

The initiative seeks to build a global community of data scientists and public health experts to address urgent challenges related to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, while involving and engaging patients and wider communities. Being part of the Grand Challenges ICODA community will provide access to shared resources and require contributions to collaborative activities, such as training, webinars and discussion forums, to maximise the impact of individual projects and accelerate collective progress.