MMV Call for Applications: 2014
Information for submission of a Malaria Box Challenge Grant to Medicines for Malaria Venture

Deadline for receipt in MMV office: 12 noon (CET) 30 October 2015

Please read the instructions carefully. Submissions should not exceed 2 pages. MMV will only receive submissions electronically; please see the contact details at the end of this document.

The process for seeking funding of a project through the MMV Malaria Box Challenge Grant consists of submitting a 2-page document outlining the project, following the guidelines below, using the template provided. These proposals will be competitively assessed by MMV. Up to five proposals will then be awarded each with a single grant of USD 100,000, subject to contract. Before applying to this call, please review the sample contract to ensure that you and your institution can abide by the contract rules. It is envisaged that the awards will initiate in December 2014 or January 2015.

Experience has shown that MMV funding is highly competitive and it is in your interest to present all relevant data as completely and concisely as possible. Guidelines on this are provided below.

Please note: only one Challenge Grant proposal per group can be submitted.

Please remember when preparing the application that the MMV Review Committee is already familiar with the key issues of neglected diseases and the need for drugs. So please focus on key information, existing data and plans. These Challenge Grants will be prioritized based on scientific merit and should propose in vivo (animal) studies following on information from the Malaria Box on neglected infectious diseases that afflict children co-infected with malaria in malaria-endemic countries. Proposals are expected to be at the stage where initial hits or leads are identified against neglected disease pathogens, such that they have in vitro data supporting their efficacy against neglected diseases, lack of toxicity against mammalian cells, and are predicted to have therapeutic pharmacokinetic (PK) exposure in the relevant animal model species. MMV has data on PK exposure on malaria box compounds which is being prepared for publication. Please write to vanvoorhisw@mmv.org ASAP for release of information for up to ten compounds, if helpful for your application. Please tell us the state of validation of your in vivo model and how the in vivo data in animal models will help the project to the next stage of pre-clinical development. We will also consider applications that propose to study malaria in animal models with the Malaria Box compounds or new compound series with novel anti-malarial compounds. Please note that for malaria studies, in vivo studies that address transmission- blocking and liver-stage malaria will be prioritized over in vivo studies that address only the asexual blood stages of malaria. Funding is to last no more than a year. Investigators or co-investigators from malaria endemic areas are highly encouraged to apply and their applications will be prioritized over applications from non-malaria endemic countries.
The following information will assist you in preparing a focused 2-page application, using the MMV template.

Your 2-page (A4 paper) application should outline:

- Project title
- Contact details of Principal Investigator, and partners with areas of responsibility of within the project and a succinct description of their professional expertise and contribution to the team
- Overall goals of the project and the Neglected Disease to be Addressed
- Scientific basis for the project and justification vs. the scope of the call e.g.
  - Hypothesis behind the selection of the compounds and the disease application and the state of validation of the animal model
  - Biologic rationale for testing this compound(s) and if appropriate, target validation, activity(ies) in vitro, PK, toxicity information
  - Comparative advantages of approach (and compounds) over existing drugs and other approaches
- Project status:
  - Give a clear account what has been achieved to date giving the latest full data and information.
  - Identify where the project is in relation to its goals and include any key results
  - Chemical structures and physical properties of lead compounds should be provided along with medicinal chemistry comments and other relevant information; the information will be treated confidentially, as will the entire application.
  - Status of assay or methods to characterize the compounds, if relevant
  - Clearly give all available data on compound series
    - (a) in vitro against enzyme / molecular target, if known, e.g., IC50 / Ki
    - (b) in culture against parasite or bacterial strains e.g. EC50 along with mammalian cytotoxicity data
    - (c) pharmacokinetic data and the likelihood of exposure to give an effect in the in vivo model (note above: PK data for malaria box compounds may be available from MMV)
- Proposed scope of work (can include as relevant)
  - Summarise the screening strategy to produce derivatives of the original hit(s), if relevant
  - State how the Malaria Box compound and derivatives will be synthesized or sourced in the appropriate quantities for animal testing. Or if proposing to make and test new compounds, give a summary of the medicinal chemistry plan specifically focusing on scale-up of hits and with derivatives, how the Medicinal Chemistry issues will be solved whilst maintaining the attractive properties
  - Identify key timed milestones towards the project goals and how the USD $100K will be used
  - If relevant, how will this grant benefit the disease-endemic investigator and build capacity for research and development.

If accepted, the project will be granted the money as soon as the legal letter of agreement is signed.

SUBMISSION CONTACT DETAILS:

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Send your 2-page Challenge Grant electronically to:
proposals@mmv.org