Questions and Answers–*C. auris* RFP

Q1. We do not offer a point of care option that would meeting the requirements listed in the RFP. However, we do have the ability to automate the current method in place (real-time PCR LDT) into a sample-to-answer format. The simplified workflow would allow increased adoption of the *C. auris* LDT in other laboratories, as it would be much easier to run. Is this at all desirable?

A1. The described system does not appear to meet the intent of the RFP.

Q2. While our platform does seem well aligned to address this clinical problem, we do not have an assay for this organism. Please advise if there is still interest.

A2. If the system is portable and easy to use and has likely potential to be adapted to *Candida auris,* then there is interest. Note that this RFP is collaborative and there is ample molecular mycology expertise at the Wadsworth Center.

Q3. Am I allowed to submit two proposals using two different technologies (I have two collaborators with different technologies)?

A3. The RFP does not limit the number of proposals any applicant organization may submit in response to the announcement.

Q4. How much preliminary or proof-of-concept data are required for this submission?

A4. The amount of preliminary or proof-of-concept data included is at the discretion of the applicant. There is no minimum required level.

Q5. Are we allowed to have co-investigators from CDC?

A5. Yes, this decision is up to the applicant.

Q6. Is it possible to have a Wadsworth Center PI listed as collaborator on the application?

A6. No, as that would constitute a conflict of interest. However, if your proposal is selected for an award, we will work with you collaboratively.

Q7 Will Wadsworth Center provide access to relevant isolates and DNA samples?

A7 The Wadsworth Center PI has access to relevant panels of fungal isolates and DNA samples for the validation studies. These materials will be made available to the successful applicants as part of the project.

Q8. Are we able to submit a similar proposal to Wadsworth Center and NIH?

A8. There is no restriction on submitting a proposal used for other funding agencies. Please note there will be due diligence at the time of the award to avoid duplication of funding.

Q9. Is there a plan to provide a critique of applications after the awards decisions are announced?

A9. A written critique will not be provided to applicants.

Q10. Are there any font, line or space limits in the preparation of the application?

A10. In addition to the 6-page limit described in the RFP, it is recommended that applicants use a minimum font size Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12.

Q11. Are we able to modify or correct an application after submission?

A11. No change is possible to the application after the submission deadline.

Q12 Would you publicly disclose any submitted grant materials?
A12. All application materials will be kept strictly confidential to the extent allowed by applicable state and federal law.

Q13. What is the recommended length for the LOI?
A13. A brief LOI will suffice as a response to this RFP.

Q14. Do you anticipate providing feedback on submitted LOIs?
A14. The submission of an LOI will be acknowledged, but no additional feedback will be provided by NYSDOH/HRI.

Q15. Is a budget breakdown required in the LOI?
A15. There is no requirement for a budget breakdown in the LOI.

Q16. We see that one of the points for project scope discusses working closely to evaluate and optimize the prototype. Is this more of a research grant where the business is leading the development or is it more similar to a contract where the Wadsworth Center is leading development and the business is executing?
A16. The selected applicants will lead the development with Wadsworth Center collaboration.

Q17. Do you have any further details about how shared IP ownership has historically occurred with Wadsworth Center?
A17. A mutually agreeable arrangement for shared IP will be negotiated with the successful applicants as part of the contract negotiations.

Q18. Should a contract be awarded, is there potential for continued partnerships to further develop the device?
A18. Yes, there definitely would be the potential for a continued partnership to further develop the device.

Q19. Can we talk on the phone more about what you are looking for, and how our platform could meet those goals?
A19. Unfortunately, we cannot talk to any potential applicants about their idea or device during the application period. However, answers to any questions we receive will be posted on the website. If you have specific questions, we'd be happy to include them in our answers.

Q20. Can we obtain examples of a successful RFP and report following the project completion?
A20. We don't have any examples of successful applications or final reports, but we would expect that you follow the general NIH SBIR/STTR format, https://sbir.nih.gov/. Also, with the exception of the abstract, applications are strictly confidential

Q21. Can we have a follow-up conversation with a person in charge, to clear up any remaining questions?
A21. Unfortunately, we cannot talk to any potential applicants about their idea or device during the application period. However, answers to any questions we receive will be posted on the website. If you have specific questions, we'd be happy to include them in our answers.