We are delighted again to announce UC San Diego's Center for Microbiome Innovation, Department of Pediatrics, Collaborative Center for Mass Spectrometry, UC San Diego Microbiome and Microbial Sciences Initiative, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, are working in concert to support rounds of seed grants for microbiome science, with three years of funding available to jump start microbiome research in San Diego. We are especially interested in sparking new research collaborations with a microbiome focus that will lead to exciting new science and extramural funding. Goals of the Seed Grant Program are, in order: (i) Generate large datasets that span many sample types, and different clinical or environmental conditions, with paired metagenomic and microbiome data, (ii) Support external grant applications on such topics, (iii) Give many investigators on campus hands-on experience with such data relevant to their own projects, (iv) Establish precedent that we can create massive and unprecedented cross-campus dataset with standard protocols that new studies including those from companies can integrate into.

In-kind support is available for reagents and data analysis for microbiome sequencing and mass spectrometry on matched samples that are suitable for both techniques. Research will be performed collaboratively with Rob Knight’s lab, Pieter Dorrestein’s lab or other labs as appropriate and depending on details of the analysis. Because microbiome science is generally a new area in San Diego, proposals will be reviewed based on potential, and the review panel will work with you to improve the science.

Analysis workshops will be set up moving forward in groups to assist in analysis of data. Additionally, the Center for Computational Biology & Bioinformatics will also offer consulting services at the investigator’s cost (CCBB).

Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis with the procedure initiated by the 1st of the month from this announcement, until the funds are depleted. Students and postdocs are especially encouraged to apply in their own right as investigators, and applications from faculty members who have not yet designated a specific member of their lab who has agreed to do the work will not be considered. Salary support and support for sample collection costs is not available in this round. We are prioritizing processing data from samples, cohorts or study sites that already exist and where all approvals (e.g. IRB, IACUC, MTAs, export permits) are already in place in this round; this criterion will relax in future rounds.

If samples will not be collected within 3 months, we encourage you to submit your application as a "Proof of Concept" proposal for provisional approval.
Applications should answer the following questions:

1. What research problem will you address? Why is this problem important?

2. Why will microbiome and/or metabolome data help address your problem?

3. How many samples do you want examined? (In minimum batches of 92, although technical replicates and biological replicates are encouraged. Typical projects will consist of 200 - 1,000 samples. In rare cases, projects with fewer than 92 samples may
be considered if there is supporting data to include metabolomics or 16S and the results will likely prove important or directly contribute to a grant or publication.)

Note, link here for sampling protocol instructions (including mice and environmental samples): Sampling Protocol

4. What type of samples will you have? If human or animal, IRB or IACUC approval is required and approval documents must be supplied.

5. Have the samples been collected? (If they will be collected later than 3 months from now, please submit proposal as “Proof of Concept” to move forward.)

6. If samples have already been collected, has sample information been compiled and submitted for approval?

Note, link here for required sampling information and template examples: Sample Information Template

7. How will this Seed Project, if successful, lead to a successful externally funded project?

8. Are these samples needed for a specific scientific manuscript or grant application, and if yes, what is it and what is the deadline?

9. Does the work involve a new collaboration across different disciplines?

Please apply online via the Center for Microbiome Innovation website:

http://jacobsschool.ucsd.edu/microbiome/grant_form.sfe

Please submit questions and comments to Lisa Cassidy, Lcassidy@ucsd.edu.

Sincerely,
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