

HOW TO APPLY FOR A CEMI PILOT GRANT (2022 update)

The CEMI mission is to support innovative, interdisciplinary microbiology research and education at Caltech. We have a limited pool of resources to advance novel, collaborative microbiology pilot projects conducted by students or postdocs. Awards (~15-50K each) will be made to support research costs, partial stipend + tuition (students), or salary + benefits (postdoctoral fellows) for 1 year starting in the fall, to be spent within the academic year.

Candidates from any Caltech Division may apply. Priority will be given to collaborative/cross-disciplinary microbiology research projects, with emphasis on projects that, if successful, are likely to grow further without CEMI support: i.) Projects that develop a unique, early stage idea or capability that enables new lines of scientific inquiry or technological progress. ii.) Projects that bring together at least 2 labs with different expertise that may lead to preliminary results that could be leveraged for a future application. If available, list specific funding opportunities to be targeted.

NOTE: If you have a small request (e.g. funding for equipment or an outreach activity) that is in the spirit of the CEMI, we are happy to consider that too.

Eligibility:

- Graduate students or postdoctoral fellows currently at Caltech and working on projects in microbiology or closely related fields
- No restrictions on length of time at Caltech

Guidelines for Application:

- 1-page narrative including title, description of pilot project (and any associated figures/graphs/tables), and brief description of candidate's qualifications.
- Candidate's curriculum vitae
- Budget (note, no overhead is required as these are internal funds, and we are aiming for any given award to be no more than \$50K)
- A very brief statement of why this proposal is suitable for CEMI support and how it addresses the CEMI mission and priorities outlined above.

Applications should be submitted by noon (12pm) in mid-September to Kristy Nguyen (kristyn@caltech.edu). The specific date will be announced through MicroMail and on the CEMI website in the summer each year. Please note that late applications will not be considered. The CEMI Steering Committee will review applications, and awards will be made within ~2 weeks of the deadline. If your proposal is selected, funds will be available at the beginning of October. Awardees will be required to provide a 1-year progress report and may be requested to present their CEMI funded work to the committee or interested parties.