



**Colton Center for the Study
of Autoimmune Diseases**
Tel Aviv University

RFP: RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE STUDY OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

The Colton Center for Autoimmune Disease Research at Tel Aviv University (TAU), together with partnering medical institutions, is inviting proposals for research in the field of autoimmune diseases. The purpose of the Center is to support broad-scoped studies that are likely to significantly improve the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of autoimmune diseases.

The Center will support all kinds of research, while placing an emphasis on research that will use medical big data and methods from the data sciences. For this purpose, the Colton Center has forged strategic partnerships with the Sheba Medical Center and the Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, as well as the Clalit Health Services (and the hospitals affiliated with it). The Center plans partnerships with additional medical institutes. These partners will enable extensive use of medical records, at no cost, for the use of existing information.

Focus for proposals

The proposed studies may deal with any aspect of autoimmune diseases, including:

- Studying a specific mechanism relevant to a particular disease or group of diseases.
- Multidimensional study of a particular disease (e.g., genomics, lifestyle, exposure to different disease-provoking factors, etc.).
- Examining the connections between autoimmune diseases and other diseases (comorbidity).
- Development of new methods that are significant for the study of autoimmune diseases or for the diagnosis of autoimmune diseases (e.g., new imaging methods or monitoring tools, development of new assays, development of new tests, etc.).
- Development of new treatment methods or repurposing of existing medications.
- Any other subject bearing potential importance for understanding, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of autoimmune diseases.

The center is prepared to support all kinds of studies including wet lab research, psychological research, engineering studies, theoretical studies, and clinical studies.

All research methods and directions for research are relevant, providing they satisfy the preference for the use of medical information.

Grant funds and duration

The first grant award will be up to \$200,000, intended for a period of two years. Proposals may request a significantly lower budget, while committing to limited deliverables, providing it is clear how the success of such a preliminary study can potentially lead to a significant breakthrough, in this study or in a successive one.

From the end of the first year of the research, after the initial results have been obtained, the researcher or research group can apply for continued funding, contingent on meeting the milestones. This additional funding can reach \$400,000 for a similar or longer period. Accomplishing the research goals in the second period will allow the submission of a third grant request identical in size. Thus, the total, grant award can reach \$1,000,000, in three installments.

Eligibility

Researchers, faculty and personnel at Tel Aviv University, and at the medical centers affiliated with TAU, or at Clalit Health Services (in the community or in its hospitals) are eligible to submit proposals. There are no conditions on the academic or medical rank of those submitting a proposal, but at least one principal investigator (PI) must be from TAU. A researcher may take part in more than one research proposal. Research groups may include researchers from non-partner institutions in Israel and elsewhere in the world as partners or consultants, but they are not eligible to receive funding.

The proposals submitted will be reviewed by the Center's steering committee that will be aided by a scientific advisory committee. Applicants of the best proposals will be called to appear in person, in front of a committee to present and discuss their proposal.



Please read the [full details of the call](#) before applying.



Use the following [template](#) to submit.



Deadline for submitting proposals,
30/3/2023 (midnight, Israel)

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT COLTONTAUAIC@TAUEX.TAU.AC.IL

