

THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
“Scholarship and Science for Social Change”

REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
FROM JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Introduction

These guidelines are for Hopkins faculty interested in collaborating with qualified professionals affiliated with institutions in developing countries on reproductive health programs or studies. Individuals or institutions from outside of Johns Hopkins University interested in collaboration should explore the possibility directly with faculty affiliated with the Gates Institute. For 2002 the project development in the following countries are given priority: China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Uganda, and Vietnam.

Purpose

The mission of the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health is to build the individual and institutional capacity in developing countries to create strong, effective population policies and programs. The Institute has supported and will continue to support a limited number of large-scale projects that focus on the goal of improving reproductive outcomes and related programs in the developing world. Supported projects are intended to provide Johns Hopkins University faculty and their developing country colleagues with the opportunity to conduct leading-edge science, mentor and train junior professionals, enable the translation of results into improved programs and policies, and impact the reproductive health status of women and men in developing countries. Projects that address the Institute’s priority areas are of particular interest. Some priority study areas are the determinants and consequences of: 1) sustainable contraceptive service delivery systems and practice; 2) successful integration of reproductive health services; 3) health decentralization and reproductive health services; 4) enabling communities to protect and improve residents’ reproductive outcomes; 5) health communications as a “social vaccine”; and 6) development of simplified data or clinical tools and protocols for improved reproductive outcomes.

Projects may be conducted over a one to three-year period, with the opportunity for renewal and the expectation of continued collaboration with counterparts as well as successful competition for external funding from sources other than the Gates Institute. Project proposals generally will involve a research-action strategy and should include the following components:

- A collaborative research effort with counterparts in developing country universities or institutions, with plans for dissemination and utilization of results
- A mentoring or training plan with a local institution(s), with plans for follow-up or integration of trainees
- A plan describing how the project’s results will be translated into improvements at the program or policy level, including involvement of a local advisory group of leaders or key decision-makers from the government, private non-profit, commercial and academic sectors committed to the institution building and results utilization

Process

All project concepts must be discussed first with the Gates Institute director or a member of the advisory group (see below) to ensure compatibility with the Institute's mission. A brief concept proposal may be submitted for review and discussion prior to submission of a full proposal. Full project proposals are submitted to the Gates Institute Director and are reviewed by the Advisory Group. Advisory Group members involved in a proposal under consideration do not participate in the review. Hopkins principal investigators will receive written feedback on the review. Approved projects with research components will need to submit notice of approval from the appropriate human subjects research committee prior to expenditure of awarded research funds.

Collaborating Network

The Gates Institute will convene a leadership forum annually, a one-day meeting of international and national leaders with presentations focused on an area of contemporary and strategic importance for reproductive health. Principal collaborators of country-based projects will be invited to attend and stay for an additional 2-3 days to meet as a network, share progress on Gates Institute-sponsored programs and work with their Hopkins collaborators.

Reporting

Approved projects are expected to submit an annual report, following a prescribed format, to the Gates Institute.

Eligibility

Any faculty member of Johns Hopkins University with appropriate background and research qualification in population and reproductive health is eligible to submit a project proposal. Guidelines for proposal preparation follow. Seed grants to explore development of project proposals are also available and detailed separately.

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

The following should be included in a project proposal:

Abstract: Abstract of the proposed project (350 words or less)

Text: The text of the proposal should be approximately 10 single-spaced pages and contain the following:

1. Specific aims
2. Programmatic and scientific significance
3. Project design
 - A. Collaborative research plan
 - i. Specific aims
 - ii. Significance
 - iii. Methods
 1. Conceptual framework and role of any intervention

2. Study design
 3. Data (Sources, sample, collection)
 4. Analysis plans
 - iv. Expected outcomes
 - v. Scientific dissemination
- B. Mentoring/Training Plan
- i. Training program
 - ii. Skills or knowledge to be acquired
 - iii. Trainee profile
 - iv. Plans for trainee follow-up and any project involvement
 - v. Expected individual or institutional capacity building outcomes
- C. Plan for translation of research into program or policy action
- i. Advisory group composition and function
 - ii. Program dissemination and utilization of research results
 - iii. Expected social change at institutional or program level
 - iv. Time line for implementation
 - v. Plans for continued collaboration, institution building, and future funding support
- D. Project budget (Assistance on budget preparation may be obtained from the Gates Institute finance officer)
- E. CV of key personnel
- F. Description of external collaborating institutions
- i. Letter(s) of support from authorized institutional official(s)

Please submit all or as many of the above materials electronically to Amy Tsui, atsui@jhsph.edu.