



## **Lab1636 & Harvard University REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Proposal Submission Deadline: December 4, 2020**

Harvard's Office of Technology Development (<http://otd.harvard.edu>) is pleased to announce a request for applications under the strategic research alliance between **Harvard University** and **Lab1636**.

Harvard University and Deerfield Management, a healthcare investment firm, established a major strategic R&D alliance in 2019 to speed the development and translation of biomedical and life-science innovations into transformative treatments that can improve life, health, and medical care. Through a newly launched company called Lab1636, Deerfield committed up to **\$100 million** in initial funding to support the alliance. A private company wholly owned by affiliates of Deerfield, Lab1636 supports Harvard R&D projects throughout various stages of drug discovery and development, such as enabling studies to explicate the biology of disease, validate therapeutic targets, or achieve a proof-of-concept necessary for filing an Investigational New Drug (IND) application.

### **FRAMEWORK AND FUNDING**

This Request for Applications (RFA) is seeking therapeutic discovery projects focused on **RARE GENETIC DISEASES** that couple Harvard's cutting-edge science with Lab1636's resources and expertise in drug development. Lab1636 will provide meaningful funding to support multi-year projects aimed to develop innovative therapeutic strategies for rare genetic diseases within the scope detailed below:

#### **Rare Genetic Diseases**

##### **Research Objectives and Scope of this RFA**

- All rare diseases with a known genetic cause that can be diagnosed with the aid of clinical sequencing are eligible. Preference is given to diseases with existing patient communities and clear clinical measures.
- Projects should be built around a clear therapeutic hypothesis that is enabled by genetic and biological understanding of the disease pathophysiology.

- Cellular and in vivo models to evaluate the therapeutic hypothesis and conduct the research should be available.
- Therapeutics of interest include small molecules, biopharmaceuticals and gene therapies.
- Existing therapeutic candidates are not required.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested faculty should contact Harvard’s Office of Technology Development to complete the application process at [otdalliances@harvard.edu](mailto:otdalliances@harvard.edu). Applicants should submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI) in the form of a questionnaire by **December 4, 2020**. The LOI should be submitted online at [www.lab1636.com](http://www.lab1636.com). Applicants can submit more than one LOI. Please contact us to request a Microsoft Word template of the LOI, which will help prepare for online submissions. *Applicants should reach out to OTD to discuss idea(s) for a project **before** preparing or submitting a LOI.*

## REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION OF FINAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Harvard OTD and Lab1636 will treat all communications and proposals as confidential. Lab1636 will evaluate LOIs and select the most promising projects to advance to the next step in the review process, which is a presentation of the proposal to the Lab1636 scientific team. Applicants advanced to the following step will work with Lab1636 towards the development of a full proposal in a stage-gated process.

## APPLICATION TIMELINES

Date	Action
<b>October 27 – December 4, 2020</b>	Harvard OTD works with Harvard faculty on development of Letter of Intent (LOI)
<b>December 4, 2020 by 5:00 PM EST</b>	Deadline for online submissions of LOI
<b>February 5, 2021</b>	Announcement of applicants advanced to presentation of the proposal to Lab1636 scientific team
<b>February – June 2021</b>	Advanced applicants work with Lab1636 towards development of a full proposal in a stage-gated process
<b>July 2021</b>	Approximate start date of projects to enter the Harvard-Lab1636 alliance

## **ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS**

Anyone with rights as a Principal Investigator, whose employer is Harvard University and who has an obligation to assign intellectual property rights to Harvard, is eligible to apply. Investigators with Harvard academic appointments but who are not employed by Harvard University are not eligible. Post-docs and research scientists who are interested in applying should discuss with their PI and apply jointly. Please reach out to your contact within OTD or to [otdalliances@harvard.edu](mailto:otdalliances@harvard.edu) to discuss projects that may involve collaborators with Harvard-affiliated hospitals or outside of Harvard University.

## **AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Project Team:** A scientific Project Team will be established for each Project, which will include representatives from Lab1636 and Harvard. The Lab1636 Project Manager and Harvard Alliance Manager will be the primary points of contact for the Project Team. The Project Team will meet periodically to discuss project progress and results.

**Publications:** Publication of the research project results will not be restricted, although Principal Investigators will need to comply with a short pre-disclosure period for all research publications and presentations resulting from the funded work, to determine if any publications contain company confidential information or if the publications contain patentable subject matter.

**Reporting Requirements:** Progress reports will be required quarterly each calendar year during the funding period, and a final report is due no later than 60 days of the end of the funding period. Each report should summarize research results relative to the specific aims of the project.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For additional information on the program and the application process, please contact the Director of Business Development at OTD that supports you or contact us at [otdalliances@harvard.edu](mailto:otdalliances@harvard.edu).