FAQ
Blavatnik Therapeutics Challenge Awards

Q: Can I get guidance on writing the pre-proposal?
A: Yes, we encourage you to contact us, so that we can help you draft a milestone-based research plan with go/no-go decision points. Please contact the Director of Translational Research Programs at ifat_rubin-bejerano_i-hub@hms.harvard.edu.

Q: Is the application considered fully confidential?
A: Yes, it is. All reviewers will be under confidentiality.

Q: What is the level of indirect costs allowed under the award?
A: HMS and all affiliated institutions have agreed to an indirect cost rate of 38%. The total costs of each award, including indirect costs and direct costs, may be up to $1 million.

Q: Should any direct costs be excluded from the indirect cost calculation?
Yes – equipment, patient costs, contract research organization costs, and subcontracts should be excluded from the indirect cost calculation (and the formula for indirect costs can be modified accordingly on the Excel budget template). Contract research organization costs and subcontracts should be listed in the "OTHER EXPENSES" category in the Excel budget template.

Q: Are subcontracts allowed in the budget?
Yes, subcontracts are allowed and are expected to be managed by the prime institution. Each subcontractor institution should complete and submit a budget template signed by the subcontractor institution official, and provide this to the prime institution to be submitted as part of the proposal PDF. The prime institution should note the total subcontractor costs in the "OTHER EXPENSES" category on the prime institution's budget template and exclude these costs from the prime institution's indirect cost calculation.

Q: Will the Blavatnik Family Foundation acquire any rights of ownership of the pre-existing IP?
A: No, they will not.

Q: How would any new IP developed under this program be handled?
A: All new IP will be filed by and assigned to the institutions. The Blavatnik Family Foundation will not own the IP.

Q: Can you elaborate on the Blavatnik Family Foundation investment right?
A: Receipt of funding will carry the responsibility to negotiate with the Blavatnik Family Foundation a right of co-investment in technologies resulting from the project. Questions regarding the Blavatnik Family Foundation's investment right should be addressed directly to the Foundation. A representative of the Foundation will be meeting with the institutions' technology development offices in December.

Q: Who are the members of the Executive Steering Committee?
A: The Executive Steering Committee is composed of expert faculty at HMS and the affiliated institutions as well as experts from the venture and biopharma communities.

Q: Will the Translator Director be assigned to the projects by the Foundation? Is that person expected to have a fiduciary or executive position in any potential spin-out company?
A: The Translator Director is an employee of Harvard Medical School. He is not going to have any position at spin-out companies.

Q: Would Harvard Office of Technology Development become involved in business discussions covering a BTCA-funded therapeutic if the IP were held solely by an affiliated institution?
A: No, it will not.

Q: Can awards be made to projects that are already optioned by a start-up company?
A: No, they cannot.

Q: Would vaccines be covered by this award?
A: Yes, they would.