

Health Innovator Letter of Inquiry

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation believes that early support for innovative ideas can lead to improvements in preventing, predicting, diagnosing and treating Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Our Health grantmaking enables researchers worldwide to test ideas, gather and share data, and collaborate to advance the understanding of IBD. Innovator Awards support individual research projects with grants of up to \$150,000 and collaborative projects involving multiple investigators with grants of up to \$300,000. Grantees who demonstrate significant progress are eligible for up to two years of additional support.

The Rainin Foundation encourages applications for high-impact basic and translational research projects that use artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), big data analytics and various model systems to deepen our understanding of the mechanisms in IBD and accelerate therapeutic discovery in the field. Collaborative applications between scientists and clinicians in a variety of fields and expertise are highly encouraged, including immunologists, microbiologists, gastroenterologists, molecular biologists and computational biologists.

Organization Information

Tax ID: Please enter the Tax Identification Number for your institution (as it appears on file with the IRS or foreign equivalency).*

Institution: Please enter the official legal name of record for your institution (as it appears on file with the IRS or foreign equivalency).*

Address*

- Address 1
- Address 2
- City
- State
- Zip code/Postal Code
- Country

Co-Principal Investigators

A Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) is an individual recognized by the prime institution and the Principal Investigator (PI) as someone who shares scientific and administrative leadership responsibilities for a project with the PI. The Co-PI is an individual who the PI relies on to contribute substantively to the scientific development and direction of the project in addition to the execution of the project. The Co-PI shares responsibility with the PI for ensuring that milestones are achieved. The Co-PI is considered “key personnel” and may be employed by or formally affiliated (through a written agreement) with the prime institution or a collaborating institution with a subaward.

The maximum award amount for a single PI is \$150,000, and for a collaborative project with Co-Principal Investigators is \$300,000.

- The budget must reflect the total amount requested, which may include up to 10% for indirect costs.
- Salary support for Principal Investigators/Co-Principal Investigators is limited to \$10,000 per PI/Co-PI (including fringe), and may not exceed \$30,000.

Does this project include Co-Principal Investigators? *

- Yes
- No

**Given the definition above, how many Co-Principal Investigators does this project have?
Hidden if response to above is "No". ***

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

PLEASE NOTE: We require contact information and biosketches for all Co-Principal Investigators. You will be prompted to provide both on subsequent pages.

We DO NOT require contact information or biosketches for personnel or collaborators who DO NOT fit the description above.

Contact Information

Please provide the requested information for the contacts listed. You will be required to provide biosketches for the principal investigator and any co-principal investigators.

Principal Investigator*

***All fields are required except pronouns.**

- Prefix
- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Department
- Pronouns
- Address
- Email
- Phone Number

- **I currently have research funding to study IBD.**
 - Yes
 - No
- **If you currently have research funding to study IBD, which organization is funding this research.**
 - Rainin Foundation
 - NIH
 - CCF
 - Helmsley Charitable Trust
 - Other
 - N/A
- **If you answered "other" to "If you currently have research funding to study IBD", please specify your research source.**
- **Is IBD your primary research focus?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **If IBD is not your primary research, please describe the focus of your research.**
- **Gender**
 - Female
 - Male
 - Gender nonbinary/Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming
 - Decline to state
- **Race Identification**
 - Asian American/Pacific Islander/Asian/South Asian
 - Black/African American/African
 - Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx
 - Native American/American Indian/Indigenous
 - White/Caucasian/European
 - Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic (two or more races or ethnicities)
 - Different identity (please specify)
 - Decline to state
- **Degree(s)**
 - Bachelor's Degree
 - Master's Degree
 - PhD (or equivalent)
 - PhD (or equivalent)
 - MD/PhD (or equivalent)
- **Career Status**
 - Early Career (within 10 years of completing your terminal research degree or within 10 years of completing medical residency or the equivalent)
 - Mid-career (associate professor or equivalent)
 - Late career (tenured professor or equivalent)

Co-Principal Investigators 1-4 (Hidden if “Does this project include Co-Principal Investigators?” is “no”). *

PLEASE NOTE: We require contact information for all Co-Principal Investigators (definition below). We DO NOT require contact information or provide biosketches for personnel who do not fit the description below.

A Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) is an individual recognized by the prime institution and the Principal Investigator (PI) as someone who shares scientific and administrative leadership responsibilities for a project with the PI. The Co-PI is an individual who the PI relies on to contribute substantively to the scientific development and direction of the project in addition to the execution of the project. The Co-PI shares responsibility with the PI for ensuring that milestones are achieved. The Co-PI is considered “key personnel” and may be employed by or formally affiliated (through a written agreement) with the prime institution or a collaborating institution with a subaward.

***All fields are required except pronouns.**

- First Name
- Last Name
- Institution
- Title
- Department
- Pronouns
- Address
- Email
- Phone Number

- I currently have research funding to study IBD.
 - Yes
 - No
- If you currently have research funding to study IBD, which organization is funding this research.
 - Rainin Foundation
 - NIH
 - CCF
 - Helmsley Charitable Trust
 - Other
 - N/A
- If you answered "other" to "If you currently have research funding to study IBD", please specify your research source.
- Is IBD your primary research focus?
 - Yes
 - No

- If IBD is not your primary research, please describe the focus of your research.
- Gender
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 - Native American/American Indian/Indigenous
 - White/Caucasian/European
 - Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic (two or more races or ethnicities)
 - Different identity (please specify)
 - Decline to state
- Degree(s)
 - Bachelor's Degree
 - Master's Degree
 - PhD (or equivalent)
 - PhD (or equivalent)
 - MD/PhD (or equivalent)
- Career Status
 - Early Career (within 10 years of completing your terminal research degree or within 10 years of completing medical residency or the equivalent)
 - Mid-career (associate professor or equivalent)
 - Late career (tenured professor or equivalent)

Research Proposal Information

Project Title*

Aims and Objectives*

Aims and objectives of the proposed research project.

MAXIMUM WORD COUNT: 1,000

While the portal will not restrict your entry, reviewers will only consider up to 1,000 words. Going slightly over is permitted, but we strongly encourage you to stay within the limit to ensure your responses remain clear, concise, and impactful. Applications that communicate their ideas succinctly tend to stand out and resonate more with reviewers.

Project Innovation & Impact - Why is this innovative and how will it impact the field of IBD? *

MAXIMUM WORD COUNT: 500

While the portal will not restrict your entry, reviewers will only consider up to 500 words. Going slightly over is permitted, but we strongly encourage you to stay within the limit to ensure your responses remain clear, concise, and impactful. Applications that communicate their ideas succinctly tend to stand out and resonate more with reviewers

Keywords*

To help us match your project with the appropriate reviewers, please select the keyword that **BEST** describes your research proposal from the list below. We will use this information to assign your LOI to the appropriate review panel.

- **Cell biology/signaling:** Exploration of cellular processes and signaling pathways that regulate intestinal function and contribute to IBD when disrupted.
- **Environmental factors (exposome & IBD):** Study of how external exposures (e.g., diet, pollutants, antibiotics) influence IBD risk and severity across the lifespan.
- **Immunity and Inflammation:** Research focused on how immune system dysregulation and chronic inflammation drive IBD pathology.
- **Microbiome:** The study of the diverse communities of microbes in the gut and their role in IBD development, progression, and treatment.
- **Neuroimmunology:** Investigation of the interactions between the nervous and immune systems in the gut and their impact on IBD symptoms and disease mechanisms.
- **Systems Biology/AI/Machine Learning:** Use of computational and integrative approaches to analyze complex biological data and uncover patterns driving IBD.

To help us match your project with the appropriate reviewers, please select the keyword that **SECOND BEST** describes your research proposal from the list below. We will use this information to assign your LOI to the appropriate review panel.

- **Cell biology/signaling:** Exploration of cellular processes and signaling pathways that regulate intestinal function and contribute to IBD when disrupted.
- **Environmental factors (exposome & IBD):** Study of how external exposures (e.g., diet, pollutants, antibiotics) influence IBD risk and severity across the lifespan.
- **Immunity and Inflammation:** Research focused on how immune system dysregulation and chronic inflammation drive IBD pathology.
- **Microbiome:** The study of the diverse communities of microbes in the gut and their role in IBD development, progression, and treatment.
- **Neuroimmunology:** Investigation of the interactions between the nervous and immune systems in the gut and their impact on IBD symptoms and disease mechanisms.
- **Systems Biology/AI/Machine Learning:** Use of computational and integrative approaches to analyze complex biological data and uncover patterns driving IBD.

To help us match your project with the appropriate reviewers, please select the keyword that **THIRD BEST** describes your research proposal from the list below. We will use this information to assign your LOI to the appropriate review panel.

- **Cell biology/signaling:** Exploration of cellular processes and signaling pathways that regulate intestinal function and contribute to IBD when disrupted.
- **Environmental factors (exposome & IBD):** Study of how external exposures (e.g., diet, pollutants, antibiotics) influence IBD risk and severity across the lifespan.
- **Immunity and Inflammation:** Research focused on how immune system dysregulation and chronic inflammation drive IBD pathology.
- **Microbiome:** The study of the diverse communities of microbes in the gut and their role in IBD development, progression, and treatment.
- **Neuroimmunology:** Investigation of the interactions between the nervous and immune systems in the gut and their impact on IBD symptoms and disease mechanisms.
- **Systems Biology/AI/Machine Learning:** Use of computational and integrative approaches to analyze complex biological data and uncover patterns driving IBD.

Research Category: This project can be best described as: *

- Basic science
- Clinical science
- Translational science

Requested Amount (Hidden if “Does this project include Co-Principal Investigators?” is “Yes”). *

How much are you requesting from the Kenneth Rainin Foundation for this application?

- The maximum award amount for a single PI is \$150,000.
- The budget uploaded on the next page must reflect the total amount requested, which may include up to 10% for indirect costs. Salary support for Principal Investigators is limited to \$10,000 per PI (including fringe), and may not exceed \$30,000.

Requested Amount (Hidden if “Does this project include Co-Principal Investigators?” is “no”). *

How much are you requesting from the Kenneth Rainin Foundation for this application?

- The maximum award amount for a collaborative project with Co-Principal Investigators is \$300,000.
- The budget uploaded on the next page must reflect the total amount requested, which may include up to 10% for indirect costs.
- Salary support for Principal Investigators/Co-Principal Investigators is limited to \$10,000 per PI/Co-PI (including fringe), and may not exceed \$30,000.

Uploads

Principal Investigator Biosketch*

We require an NIH biosketch for the principal investigator. Please upload a biosketch for the PI using the provided template. Please upload as a PDF.

[Click here](#) for template instructions and download the template below.

Co-Principal Investigator 1 Biosketch (Required depending on response to “Given the definition above, how many Co-Principal Investigators does this project have?” *

We require an NIH biosketch for Co-Principal Investigators. We DO NOT require contact information or biosketches for personnel or collaborators who DO NOT fit the definition of a Co-Principal Investigator.

- Please upload a biosketch for the PI using the provided template.
- Please upload as a PDF.

[Click here](#) for template instructions and download the template below.

Co-Principal Investigator 2 Biosketch (Required depending on response to “Given the definition above, how many Co-Principal Investigators does this project have?” *

We require an NIH biosketch for Co-Principal Investigators. We DO NOT require contact information or biosketches for personnel or collaborators who DO NOT fit the definition of a Co-Principal Investigator.

- Please upload a biosketch for the PI using the provided template.
- Please upload as a PDF.

[Click here](#) for template instructions and download the template below.

Co-Principal Investigator 3 Biosketch (Required depending on response to “Given the definition above, how many Co-Principal Investigators does this project have?”) *

We require an NIH biosketch for Co-Principal Investigators. We DO NOT require contact information or biosketches for personnel or collaborators who DO NOT fit the definition of a Co-Principal Investigator.

- Please upload a biosketch for the PI using the provided template.
- Please upload as a PDF.

[Click here](#) for template instructions and download the template below.

Co-Principal Investigator 4 Biosketch (Required depending on response to “Given the definition above, how many Co-Principal Investigators does this project have?”) *

We require an NIH biosketch for Co-Principal Investigators. We DO NOT require contact information or biosketches for personnel or collaborators who DO NOT fit the definition of a Co-Principal Investigator.

- Please upload a biosketch for the PI using the provided template.
- Please upload as a PDF.

[Click here](#) for template instructions and download the template below.

Additional IBD Funding Questions Introduction

Your responses to the following questions WILL NOT impact the outcome of your application.

The information you provide will help us better understand whether applicants are new to the field of IBD and how previous research funding has contributed to advancing work in this area. Your insights are valuable and will support our efforts to improve funding strategies and strengthen the impact of our programs.

Has the PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR previously received funding for IBD research? *

- YES
- NO

Has Co-Principal Investigator 1-4 previously received funding for IBD research? (Required depending on response to “Given the definition above, how many Co-Principal Investigators does this project have?”) *

- YES
- NO

The following questions will display if the PI or Co-PI(s) previously received funding for IBD research.

Has the PI/Co-PI previously received IBD funding from the NIH? *

- Yes
- No

How much IBD funding has the PI/Co-PI previously received from the NIH? (Displays if above is “Yes”) *

- \$1–\$50,000
- \$50,001–\$100,000
- \$100,001–\$250,000
- \$250,001–\$500,000

- \$500,001–\$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000

Has the PI/Co-PI previously received IBD funding from philanthropic sources? *

A **philanthropic source** refers to a foundation, donor, or charitable organization that provides funding for research or initiatives, typically through grants or donations. E.g., Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation, Helmsley Charitable Trust, etc.

- Yes
- No

How much IBD funding has the PI/Co-PI previously received from philanthropic sources? (Displays if above is “Yes”) *

- \$1–\$50,000
- \$50,001–\$100,000
- \$100,001–\$250,000
- \$250,001–\$500,000
- \$500,001–\$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000

Has the PI/Co-PI previously received IBD funding from their home institution? *

A **home institution** refers to the primary university, research center, or organization where the Principal Investigator (PI) was employed and through which the grant was administered.

- Yes
- No

How much IBD funding has the PI/Co-PI previously received from a home institution? (Displays if above is “Yes”) *

- \$1–\$50,000
- \$50,001–\$100,000
- \$100,001–\$250,000
- \$250,001–\$500,000
- \$500,001–\$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000

Has the PI/Co-PI previously received funding for IBD research from private sources, such as venture capital, corporate partnerships, or Program-Related Investments (PRIs)? *

- Yes
- No

How much IBD funding has the PI/Co-PI previously received from private sources, such as venture capital, corporate partnerships, or Program-Related Investments (PRIs)? (Displays if above is “Yes”) *

- \$1–\$50,000
- \$50,001–\$100,000
- \$100,001–\$250,000
- \$250,001–\$500,000
- \$500,001–\$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000

Has the PI/Co-PI received funding from OTHER sources NOT listed above? *

- Yes
- No

List OTHER Funding Sources (Displays if above is “Yes”) *

How much IBD funding has the PI received from OTHER Sources? (Displays if above is “yes”) *

- \$1–\$50,000
- \$50,001–\$100,000
- \$100,001–\$250,000
- \$250,001–\$500,000
- \$500,001–\$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000