



D-SINE Africa

Data Science Center for Surgery, Injury, and Equity in Africa

University of Buea, Cameroon

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SEED GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

I - About Us: The Data Science Centre for the Study of Surgery, Injury and Equity in Africa (D-SINE Africa) is a research hub hosted at the University of Buea that aims to reduce the burden of injuries and bridge the gap of inequities to access to surgical services in African countries. D-SINE Africa is a multi-institutional partnership funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH and the Fogarty International Center (FIC). It involves the following institutions:

- *University of Buea, Cameroon*
- *University of California; Los Angeles, USA*
- *University of California; Berkeley, USA*
- *University of Cape Town, South Africa*
- *African Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Cameroon*

II - Program Description:

The *D-SINE Africa* seed grant is designed to foster pilot studies with aims related to D-SINE Africa's overall objectives and thematic areas of focus: data science applications to study trauma, surgery, and health equity in Africa. Applications that propose the study of the intersection of these themes are especially encouraged. The program aims to support investigators interested in data science applications to trauma, surgical and health equity.

III - Funding Opportunity:

The Seed Grant Opportunity is opened to all Africa-based investigators excluding partners of *D-SINE Africa*. The proposal could be a project of primary data collection from established investigators or junior faculty pursuing a new clinical research direction with a focus on injuries, surgery and equity. Proposals from diverse areas of research, including public health, clinical research, basic science, translational science, and health policy or economics applications, may all be considered.

Collaborative partnerships involving more than one faculty are particularly encouraged. Successful proposals could be funded to the tune of \$20,000 and will cover a maximum period of 18 months. Collaboration among researchers at multiple campuses is encouraged. Requests for funds to complete an existing project, carry out a fully powered study or that do not meet *D-SINE Africa* thematic areas of focus will not be considered.

IV – Eligibility:

Africa-based investigators (who hold their primary appointment or affiliation at an African institution) are eligible to apply for D-SINE Seed Grants.

V - How to apply:

Interested applicants should submit full proposal to the email address; contact@dsineafrika.org, latest on the deadline October 31st 2022, at 4:00 pm Central African Time. Any submission after the deadline will not be considered. The number of proposals to be awarded will be contingent to the availability of funds. Future cycles of proposals are anticipated annually, dependent on funding.

Key Deadlines:

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| ➤ Release of call for proposals: ----- | September 30 th 2022 |
| ➤ Submission of full proposal: ----- | October 31 st 2022 |
| ➤ Dispatch of proposals to reviewers: ----- | November 7 th 2022 |
| ➤ Receipt of feedback from reviewers ----- | November 28 th 2022 |
| ➤ Selection of final proposals for funding by committee ----- | December 6 th 2022 |
| ➤ Notice of Awards: ----- | January 6 th 2022 |

VI – The Application:

The application alongside the full proposal **MUST** be submitted electronically together with a short CV of **ALL** investigators and collaborators. The application must contain the following:

1 - A title page with the following:

- The full descriptive title of the project
- Applicant PI Name, phone and email
- Name of Institution
- Names and roles of other key personnel/collaborators.

2 – A short narrative describing the most salient points of the project covering the following:

- i. Short abstract/summary (less than 300 words) of the project.
- ii. Background/Specific Aims
- iii. Methods
- iv. Expected outcomes and impact.
- v. references
- vi. Proposed total budget (not itemized, just the total sum requested)

3 - The full project proposal must include the following:

- i. Full project narrative: this is limited to six pages, single spaced, times new roman, 12 font size.
- ii. Research Strategy (A. Significance, B. Innovation, C. Approach, --including methods to achieve each Specific Aim, outcome measures, analysis plan, timeline, and milestones, D. Ethical Consideration, E. Research Environment and F. References).
- iii. An itemized budget. Allowable costs include: data collection material, core laboratory services and other ancillary services purchased from the health system, compensation for hospital night shifts. Anyone who is already receiving salary from the D-SINE project, is not eligible to be paid salary under the pilot project.

- iv. CVs of all investigators
- v. Letter of support from the applicant's Division Chief, Department Chair, or Dean (one of them only) stating that they support the applicant's project and will make sure that they have the time and resources to complete the project if they are granted an award.
- vi. Letter of support of the applicant's mentor if the applicant is a trainee.

VII – THE REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel chaired by the Seed Grant projects officer. Proposals will be evaluated across 6 domains which include: Significance, Innovation, Investigators, Approach, Environment, Ethical Consideration, as well as compliance with D-SINE Africa objectives, and Budget. The review process is aligned with the NIH-style evaluation metrics, in addition to criteria specific to D-SINE Africa's core mission.

The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- i. Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review
- ii. Availability of funds
- iii. Relevance of the proposed project to *D-SINE Africa* priorities.
- iv. Likelihood of effective application for future funding based on completion of this pilot

VII – POST-AWARD

All applicants who submitted a full proposal will receive a review of their submission. Successful applicants will sign a written agreement with D-SINE Africa and undertake to administer the fellowship according to the agreement and to provide both progress reports and financial reports within stipulated timelines. They will be responsible for following-up with all parallel procedures such as administrative authorizations and ethical approval. Release of funds will be contingent to submission of all authorizations. The research activities **MUST** be started within 02 (two) weeks of release of funds.