



BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery
מרכז בלווטניק לפיתוח תרופות



Call for joint drug discovery projects at the BCDD

The BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery (BCDD) announces internal funding of drug discovery related projects at Tel Aviv University. This Call for Proposals is open for all TAU researchers working in the area of drug discovery. The BCDD's goal is to accelerate the hit to lead process at the TAU campus by providing a state-of-the-art research and development environment, encourage partnerships that cross many scientific disciplines and research sectors in pursuit of translational success and promotion of the discovery and development of novel therapeutics.

The BCDD (<http://bcdd.tau.ac.il/>), a multi-disciplinary research center located in the TAU campus, integrates basic and translational research in the field of drug discovery. The BCDD offers infrastructure and expertise in the fields of medicinal chemistry (peptide and small molecules synthesis, QSAR studies and analytical assays), biology (HTS, biological assays development and adaptation to HTS) and computer-aided drug design (modeling, docking, pharmacophores and chemoinformatics), which are focused to foster early stage drug discovery.

The BCDD's resources will be available to enable selected projects to reach the next level in the drug discovery process. The BCDD will support about 5 research projects by conducting in-house collaboration projects using the BCDD infrastructure platform and that of the TAU researchers. Proposal selection is based on the scientific merit of the projects, and will be scored according to the following criteria:

- 1) Innovation and excellence
- 2) How the BCDD infrastructure would contribute to advance the specific project (considering time scale and available manpower)
- 3) How the project collaboration with the BCDD would accelerate the hit to lead process towards novel therapeutics applications

BCDD FUNDING;

The BCDD is offering to support projects using BCDD infrastructure up to the value of the grant (for conducting drug discovery project at the BCDD using its infrastructure and trained staff) for researchers investigating either novel drug targets, new compound/s, new virtual or actual hit, or new computational tools to promote innovative therapeutic ideas from basic research into novel drugs.

The BCDD will provide financial support to test researcher hypothesis or start/extend current research activities as joint projects conducted at the BCDD and in the TAU researchers labs. There are two types of grants, which will be allocated by the BCDD depending on the scientific data provided and the maturity of the proposal.

BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery | Tel Aviv University
Phone: +972-3-640-9654, 9842 | Email: bcdd@tauex.tau.ac.il |
Website: bcdd.tau.ac.il

Advanced grants (up to 200,000 NIS)*

For mature ideas, e.g. to address specific aspects of a target (well characterized target will be preferred)/compound as a step towards transferring it to an advanced stages of drug discovery process.

Submission criteria:

- New target
 - Hit (virtual/actual) for a given indication
1. Preliminary results / basic proof of concept supporting the proposed research model are required.
 2. In vitro assay/s
 3. Protein/Cell/Disease model
 4. Assay development support at the BCDD
 5. Overall support (student dedicated to the project)

Early stage DD grants (up to 50,000 NIS)*

For assay development at a very early stage of drug discovery. Preliminary results/basic proof of concept supporting the proposed research model are required.

* The amount of the specific grant may vary according to the complexity of the project.

Successful projects supported by the BCDD may lead to further collaborations toward external funding

APPLICATION PROCESS

An abstract describing the experimental model, target/compound, its characteristics and a description of its therapeutic potential will be submitted using the attached form.

The applicant should be able to complement duration of the project with assay development and characterization, and to involve (by demand) project-dedicated student or scholar to work on a range of project

The information provided will be evaluated by the BCDD International Advisory Board experts.

Successful applicants will be notified by the BCDD and will receive further instructions concerning the grant. A BCDD caretaker will be in contact with the applicant during the grant period.

Project applications forms (“two pager”) and NIH type biosketch of the principal investigator should be submitted by **February, 1st** 2018 to Dr. Ludmila Buzhansky via email at ludmilabu@tauex.tau.ac.il.

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The BCDD International Advisory Board members will review the pre-proposals and assist the selection of those invited for full proposal submission, which will be prepared with the aid of BCDD staff by March 1st 2018.

For further information, please visit our website bcdd.tau.ac.il

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