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**The Vertex Innovation Awards (VIA)** for research in cystic fibrosis (CF) have been set up to support innovative and collaborative clinical research that may improve the care of people with CF

Vertex aims to foster a better understanding of CF by the attribution of grants selected by a VIA Committee of external CF experts

Awards are chosen by an independent selection committee and applications will be accepted from candidates in countries in which Vertex operates

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### **Research Focus**

The VIA program is designed to support clinical research in CF and applications for clinical research projects will be considered across the entire field of CF

Clinical research related to patient-oriented research, including interventional, epidemiological, and translational studies

Please note that any research studies directly studying Vertex products, or those focused on non-clinical research, are not eligible for entry

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### **Value**

For the 2023 annual awards, the VIA Selection Committee will select 1 to 4 projects *up to a total value* of \$750,000

**Contact Us: [VIAProgram@vrtx.com](mailto:VIAProgram@vrtx.com)**

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## Vertex Innovation Award

### Vertex Innovation Award Eligibility

- Applicants should be able to demonstrate that the proposed research will be led by an individual (or individuals) with an established career interest in CF and that they hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree at the time of the application
- Applications are welcome from medical or research centers with a demonstrated record of research and achievement in CF
- Applications are welcome from single centers or multi-centers participating in collaborative research. For all applications, however, a lead investigator center needs to be nominated
- Applicants should be able to complete the proposed research within the 2-year award period, providing an interim report to Vertex every 6 months, according to their project milestones. The VIA Committee will confirm the reporting requirements at the selection of the final project. Applications should also show the ability to follow local and international requirements (ICH)
- All applications need to be supported by the institution hosting the research. An authorized signatory will be required for the submission of the Letter of Intent application
- Grants awarded under this program should not duplicate funding from other sources. In addition, applicants will not be accepted from members or centers of members of the VIA Committee

### Vertex Innovation Award Selection Criteria

- A. Quality of Proposal
  - Innovation of research
  - Feasibility of research
  - Alignment to the CF VIA program's research focus
- B. Ability of the PI/Group to deliver the project
  - Experience and record of executing research projects of comparable scope, expertise, time, and budget
  - Experience and record of research center in therapy area
  - Quality and availability of resources
  - Adherence to ethical principles
  - Design, execution, and monitoring of the research program by the principal investigator
- C. Impact of the project on the understanding or treatment of CF
- D. Address Inclusion, Diversity & Equity in the CF Community
  - Initiatives that identifies or helps address the challenges underrepresented patient populations face with CF



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## Submitting A Proposal

*The VIA program is a two-stage application process...*

### Stage 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Application

- Access the LOI concept application through the Vertex Grants Portal – Cybergrants [https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/via\\_concept](https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/via_concept). The program will be open for applications starting on **September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- Complete the necessary fields and submit your VIA Concept by **November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, including all supplementary materials as specified in the form
- All LOI applications received by the deadline date will be assessed by the selection committee
- All applicants will be notified via email, mid-November, as to whether they have been invited to submit a full proposal

### Stage 2: Full Proposal Application

- Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will submit their full application through the Vertex Grants Portal – Cybergrants [https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/via\\_full](https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/via_full)
- Complete the necessary fields and submit your VIA Full Application by **January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, including all supplementary materials as specified in the form
- An institutional letter is required by with full proposal
- All full proposal applications received by the deadline date with be assessed by the steering committee
- All applicants will be notified by email, by the end of January, of the final award decisions of the committee



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## Financial Information

### Additional Funding

- Applicable projects are not permitted to receive additional funding from other pharmaceutical companies or for-profit entities. Funding from nonprofit entities may be permitted; please clearly state the entity, the nature of the funding, and the amount of funding provided in your proposal

### Authorized Expenses

- Funding is contingent on a full review of the research budget. Budgets should include reasonable costs within the parameters below:
  - Grant for hours of work necessary for the implementation of the project
  - Supplies and consumables necessary to fulfill the project
  - Travel expenses directly related to the implementation of the project
  - Costs associated with the publication of the research
  - Indirect/overheads costs at no more than 25%; applications greater than 25% will not be considered

### Unauthorized Expenses

- Salaries beyond recipient's grant for their direct project work
- Fringe benefits
- Travel or housing related to sabbaticals
- Fees for tuition
- Membership dues, congress/meeting registrations, subscriptions, books, or journals

### Disbursement of Funds

- Projects will receive funding based on project-related milestones, including receipt of scheduled progress reports. Additional information related to the timing of payments will be outlined in the research agreement

### Funds and Financial Reports

- Funding provided through the VIA program may be subject to reporting under applicable transparency laws and codes
- A final financial report is due 60 days after the end of the funding period reconciling the proposed budget with the actual expenditures. In the event that unexpected funds remain at the end of the funding period, these funds must be returned to the VIA program



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## Other

### Multiple Grants

- Applicants may only receive one grant from the VIA program per annual cycle

### Multiple Applications From the Same Institution

- More than one application from the same institution is permitted. However, multiple applications from the same group of researchers at an institute are not permitted

### Multicenter Applications

- Applications for multicenter projects are permitted, but in this case a lead center must be nominated. The application should be submitted by the principal investigator center

### Change in Grant Recipient's Status

- The transfer of a grant to another institution will be at the sole discretion of the VIA program and a new contract with the center will be required

### Progress and Final Reports

- Project milestones are requested as a part of the application process and will be documented in your VIA award contract. Interim progress reports and a final report at the end of the project, must be submitted for approval at these pre-agreed project milestones. Subsequent payments of the VIA award will then be made upon approval of the report and receipt of a satisfactory invoice

### Termination of Support

- If the grant recipient fails to comply with any terms of the agreement, then Vertex reserves the right to deny funding and/or request return of funds, if paid

### Commercialization Rights

- Vertex may ask for a right of first refusal to obtain an exclusive worldwide license to any technology invented or improved under the grant. In such cases, Vertex will negotiate with the appropriate party to seek an appropriate arrangement

### Publications

- The VIA program strongly encourages the grant recipients to publish the work carried out under a grant. This includes abstract submissions to congresses. Grant recipients must acknowledge the receipt of funding from the VIA program in publications and abstracts describing research conducted with award made by the VIA program