

## **Proposed Center for Microbiomics, Inflammation, and Pathogenicity (CMIP) Faculty Senate Planning & Budget Committee (Chair Summary, 1/22/2021)**

### **Proposed Director and Facilities:**

Co-Directors for this new Center (CMIP) will be Richard J. Lamont, PhD, Endowed Professor and Chair of Oral Immunology and Infectious Diseases in the Dental School; and Haribabu Bodduluri, PhD, Professor and Vice Chair of Microbiology and Immunology in the Medical School. Oversight and direct Center reporting will be through the Vice-President for Academic Medical Affairs (VPAMA).

Proposed facilities currently exist as the Functional Microbiomics Core (FMC) in 5 rooms in the CTRB on the Health Sciences Campus. Other facilities will be the existing laboratories of faculty researchers who become affiliated with the new CMIP. The FMC has much of the required equipment, but the CMIP will add a Nano-Imaging Core and 2-photon intravital real-time Imaging to study inflammation in live mice. This new Imaging Core equipment will be funded through use of available C-RIF from the Co-Directors currently funded multiple NIH research grants, a new NIH Instrumentation grant application, and philanthropy (Center Naming Rights).

Personnel include current FMC staff, laboratory staff that are funded by individual participating researchers, and the available C-RIF. Expansion of personnel will occur with success in gaining additional NIH grant funding, and in gaining P01 Center Funding from NIH.

### **Background:**

The Co-Directors and other faculty committed to the CMIP have 11 active NIH R01 grants among them, plus an NIH funded P20 Cobre junior faculty training grant entitled Functional Microbiomics, Inflammation, and Pathogenicity. This FMIP pairs unfunded early career junior faculty with more senior funded faculty investigators for research related to microbially-induced inflammation and disease. In the first 3 years of this NIH funded P20, the FMIP assisted 4 junior faculty (3 remain at UofL) to receive their own NIH funding such that they were replaced by other unfunded junior faculty in the NIH funded P20.

### **Purpose of new CMIP**

The major purpose of the new CMIP is to provide a team research structure (and expanded Core facilities) for the newly funded junior faculty and other investigators who are not currently part of the FMIP. This intends to expand partnerships among scientists who are committed to the investigation of diseases, to generate preliminary data for new research grant applications, and to enhance collaborative thinking for increased research productivity.

Another major purpose is to create an effective structure and a mechanism to retain and recruit faculty interested in microbiome research. This can lead to subsequent multi-PI applications as well as a larger P01 Center application to NIH for future extramural funding.

The major metric for Center success will be increases in publications by center members, increases in the number of submitted and funded grant proposals by Center-associated researchers, and success in NIH funding of a thematic P01 Center grant on the "microbiome."

This proposed Center does not involve or require any academic coursework, degrees, or Certificates. This proposed Center does provide opportunity for further career development of junior faculty who are interested in research on the "microbiome."

### **Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Planning & Budget Committee**

At its meeting on Jan 21, 2021, the Planning & Budget Committee approved the transmittal to this proposed CMIP to the Faculty Senate, and recommends Faculty Senate approval of this Center proposal.