Example Expression of Interest—Catherine Kingscote Foundation’s Program Area on Neglected Vaccines Research

This is an imaginary example with made-up “facts”; it represents one idea of many that we would be excited about. Our goal is to give candidates a sense of the level of detail and formality we hope to receive.

What is the applying program/organization?

We are applying as the Neglected Vaccines Research Program at the Catherine Kingscote Foundation. We are one of five program areas at the Catherine Kingscote Foundation.

Please describe your goal(s) in no more than 300 words.

Our program aims to fund catalytic investments in neglected vaccine research. Our overarching goal is to protect people from disease so that they can live healthy and happy lives. We measure our success based on three main criteria: the number of lives we expect to be saved by vaccines we support (before 2050), private and public health savings from those vaccines, and courses of antibiotics avoided (valuable in the context of growing antibiotic resistance).

Please describe your strategy to achieve these goal(s) in no more than 300 words.

There are a few different diseases we have focused on historically, in particular flaviviruses like dengue and Zika. We make small grants mostly to academic labs for exploratory research. We then award the projects that make the most promising progress further funding for preclinical development. If a successful vaccine candidate is developed, we connect the team behind it to further sources of capital from investors, government funders, or philanthropy, so they can proceed to clinical trials and eventually to market.

Please describe the biggest accomplishments which your grants have enabled in the last five years in no more than 300 words.

Our biggest accomplishment to date has been our initial funding for the ABC vaccine, which is currently in phase II clinical trials for protection against disease XYZ. From 2016-2021, we made a set of eight grants to five groups, totaling $28M USD, with the aim of developing a vaccine lead promising enough to take into human trials. One of the labs we supported made
quick progress, and spun off a company to run a phase I clinical trial starting in 2017. We supported half of the phase I costs with grant funding, and the company has now attracted strategic partners and impact investors to support their phase IIa trials (results expected in mid-2023). We have a short description of our grantmaking strategy on our website at [link omitted] and a more detailed white paper available at [link omitted]. You can also read about the lab’s work at [link omitted] and [link omitted].

What was your annual grantmaking budget between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021?

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021 our program granted roughly 100M USD. Here is our budget broken out by calendar year:

- 2019 - 30M USD
- 2020 - 35M USD
- 2021 - 35M USD

While some of our grantees’ activities were disrupted due to Covid-19, our grantmaking was not.