

Funding Partners »

Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

The Department of Biotechnology was set up in 1986, making India one of the few countries in the world that has a government body dedicated solely to the advancement of biotechnology to improve the lives' of people. Today, the DBT not only encourages innovation in biotechnology, by funding research organizations and forming strategic partnerships with industry across the country, but also encourages research in social areas such as healthcare, nutrition and food security, environmental sustainability and energy security. DBT also works through international collaborations and partnerships with organizations in multiple countries across the world.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

BIRAC was set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency with the aim of strengthening and empowering emerging Biotech enterprises to facilitate them in undertaking strategic research and innovation that addresses nationally relevant product development needs.

BIRAC functions as an industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, such as by providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, Intellectual Property management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

Since its inception, BIRAC has initiated several schemes, networks and platforms that help bridge the existing gaps in industry-academia innovation and research, and facilitates novel, high quality affordable products development through cutting edge technologies. BIRAC has initiated partnerships with several national and global partners to participate in various collaborations.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of

hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

The foundation's work in India started a decade ago with the purpose of developing a model HIV-prevention program. Since then, its work has expanded to include maternal and child health, health and nutrition services, vaccines and routine immunization, family planning, agricultural development, sanitation, control of infectious diseases, and financial inclusion. Together with its partners, the foundation aims to deliver results none of them could achieve by acting alone.

Implementing Agency »

Program Management Unit at BIRAC (PMU-BIRAC)

The Program Management Unit at BIRAC (PMU-BIRAC) was set up under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to bring together global funders with national stakeholders to a single platform, with not only the aim of leveraging funding from these bodies to address some of the greatest challenges we face today, but to also promote best practices, share knowledge among partners, by bringing in international expertise into the country. Since its inception, PMU-BIRAC has been instrumental in managing the jointly funded programs and projects of the partnership, with Grand Challenges India as the flagship program.

PMU-BIRAC is responsible for executing, managing, and providing technical and financial oversight of collaboratively funded projects and initiatives. Currently, the team manages a wide-ranging portfolio of projects that are located across the country.

In 2016, Wellcome Trust UK joined this partnership and PMU-BIRAC provides technical and management support to the Affordable Healthcare in India portfolio of programs of the Trust.

PMU-BIRAC is housed at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), in New Delhi and is also supported by USAID.

Grand Challenges India

Antimicrobial resistance

AMR

FUNDING PARTNERS



DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Science and Technology

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Implementing Organisation

Program Management Unit at BIRAC

A partnership of the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India,
the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wellcome

Grand Challenges India »

Grand Challenges India (GCI), launched in 2012 and is the flagship program managed by the PMU at BIRAC for the Department of Biotechnology and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnership. It was launched with the aim of directing funding and research to address some of the most daunting health and development challenges we face today in different areas such as maternal and child health, infectious diseases, vaccines, point-of-care diagnostics, agricultural development, food and nutrition, sanitation and hygiene among others.

GCI is committed to seeking and rewarding both established researchers, young entrepreneurs and other innovators, from academia and industry, with the ambition of expanding the pipeline of ideas for developing new preventive and curative therapies, piloting new technologies, and exploring new ideas.

Mandate of this call »

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation under Grand Challenges India seek proposals that aims at encouraging innovation in tackling AMR under three specific categories: solutions for better use of surveillance data to achieve actionable results, innovations in products and technologies to break infection cycles in healthcare settings and to remove antibiotics from effluents.

Surveillance Solutions

We seek new approaches that have the potential to transform public health action on a regional or global scale by identifying and filling gaps in knowledge on antimicrobial resistance burden encompassing antibacterial, antifungal, and antiparasitic agents – we are not seeking incremental improvements in typical disease surveillance solutions. Specifically, we seek projects that propose innovation in the following areas:

- Biomarkers: Pilot tests of new biomarkers or combinations of biomarkers that could lead to new understanding of the actionable implications of antimicrobial resistance surveillance data, including biomarkers that ultimately might be the basis for point-of-care diagnostic tests
- Data sources: Pilot tests of new sources of data, particular those that would bring together different research communities for new perspectives on the problem
- Analytical methods: Pilot tests of bioinformatics approaches, including those that combine or connect existing databases in novel ways.

Technologies/products that target improved infection prevention

- Low-cost technologies/products: exploratory work in developing novel products and/or technologies that specifically target improved infection prevention and control in healthcare settings as well as technologies to remove antibiotics from effluents.

Technologies/products that target improved effluent treatment to remove antibiotic load

- Low-cost technologies/products: exploratory work in developing novel products and/or technologies that specifically target removal of antibiotics from effluents. This may be a proof of concept study or developing an efficient and affordable technology which can be readily applied to antibiotics from various sewage disposal units/factory outlets/livestock effluents which contain antimicrobials going into the waste system.

For further details, including details on suggestions of what may be considered for funding and what may not, please refer to the detailed Request for Proposal, available on the BIRAC website at www.birac.nic.in

Funding pattern »

This Grand Challenges India program will be for developing a Proof-of-concept for solutions.

"Proposal for developing proof of concept (12-18 months): Funded at up to \$100,000 USD each project, do not require extensive preliminary data and are meant to provide an opportunity to test particularly bold ideas, including applying approaches from outside the field or that bridge fields. New approaches could be piloted as additions to ongoing funded projects.

Application instructions »

Please visit the BIRAC website at www.birac.nic.in and follow the link to the registration and submission portal. The application consists of an online form, which needs to be filled online. The entire application process is online. Please read the Request for Proposals carefully and ensure your eligibility before applying for the challenge.

Application Process »

After an initial triage, review panels established under the Grand Challenges India partnership will evaluate the proposals submitted. Post proposal review and legal eligibility check, the selected applicants will be invited to present their proposals in detail to TAG. Pending financial and technical due diligence, the final recipients will be selected by the TAG. Once Due Diligence is successfully completed, award certificates will be awarded to the selected GCI applicants.

Schedule

- **11th April, 2018** : Call opens
- **25th May 2018** : Online portal for submissions closes at midnight on 25th May 2018
- **October 2018** : Award Announcement

Eligibility »

This RFP is India-led; the programme is open to Indian academics, research institutions, companies, society, trusts and foundations.

Project cost will be sanctioned to researchers and innovators who are Indian individuals or Indian entities*, we also encourage partnerships with researchers of national/international expertise, subject to the call guidelines.

Please refer to the Request for Proposals available online on the website for further details.

- An Individual should be a Citizen of India
- Indian entities are defined as those established under any relevant statute, agreement, rule or regulation in India.

CONTACT US

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Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
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FOR ENQUIRIES

Please email us at: **Mission Director, PMU-BIRAC** at mdpmubmgf.birac@nic.in or call us at: +91-1124389600 with the subject line: **Grand Challenges India AMR**