VCCIS Immunology Priming Grant: Call for Funding Proposals

The Veterinary Comparative and Clinical Immunology Society (VCCIS) Inc. invites applications for funding projects investigating **clinical or comparative immunology of companion animals (e.g., cats, dogs, horses) and food-producing animals or domestic livestock (cattle, goats, sheep, swine)** up to a maximum sum of $6,000 and to be completed within 3 years of funding being awarded. Such proposals may include, but are not limited to, investigations of immune-mediated disease, allergy, immunodeficiency, vaccine immunology, immunity to infectious diseases, and immunomodulatory therapies. While novel approaches are welcomed, VCCIS will also be happy to consider proposals to repeat previous studies in a more robust manner to improve the quality of the evidence base. VCCIS encourages a collaborative approach among some combinations of clinicians, laboratory scientists, bioinformaticians, and human clinicians and researchers.

Priority will be given to proposed studies that:

- Improve the management of animals with prevalent disease(s) that cause high morbidity or mortality
- Are based on sound and current immunological principles

The deadline for proposals is ***5 pm Eastern on March 5, 2027.***

The VCCIS Priming Grant is made possible by generous support from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health.

Terms and Conditions

Principal Investigators and Co-Principal Investigators must be current members of VCCIS. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. The decision of the committee will be final and not subject to appeal.

Funding amounts will be awarded up to $6,000, either as a single large grant or as multiple smaller grants. Permissible expenses include consumable and animal costs only; overhead (F&A) and salary costs are not allowable. Each person may act as the principal investigator for one (1) application only, and only one (1) application will be permitted for each project or study. If proposed studies involve laboratory animals, clear justification must be given for why the investigations cannot be conducted in client-owned animals with spontaneous disease. Studies inducing disease, pain, or suffering in laboratory animals are not eligible for this fund. If the application is successful, details of the study and investigators will be displayed on the VCCIS website and VCCIS shall obtain the right to use such information in any of its publications or presentations. Prior approval must be obtained before using the VCCIS name or logo for your research.

Studies should be completed within three (3) years from the date of the award, with the assumption that results will be published. If the study is not published in a recognized, peer-reviewed research journal, the highlights of the study results can be published on the VCCIS website after review by the VCCIS research committee. A brief study progress report will be required every 12 months from the date of receiving

the award, including details of number of cases recruited, if applicable, and a schedule for completion of outstanding work. Awardees are expected to submit an abstract of their work for presentation at a veterinary specialty meeting (*e.g.*, ACVIM, ECVIM, ACVD, ACVM, etc.), preferably the ACVIM Forum; if this is not possible, the awardee must notify the VCCIS Board of Directors explaining the circumstances preventing submission. A copy of the abstract should be included in a progress report to VCCIS.

VCCIS is not an employer and will not be liable for any personnel associated with the research undertaken using its funds.

Should the awardee of the grant move institutions then VCCIS must be informed, either in writing or via email, prior to their move. The primary awardee of the monies must inform VCCIS whether they intend to take the monies with them to their new institution to continue the research, or whether the monies are remaining within the original institution, where a new principal awardee must be nominated. Failure to do so could result in funds having to be repaid to VCCIS by the original primary awardee.

VCCIS reserves the right to contact all researchers associated with activities it funds, including requests for updates on research progress. Awardees will be required to complete a progress report that documents the impact of the grant, to include items such as residents trained, publications, meetings where findings were presented (research or continuing education), how the work has advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, or prognostic capacity, and engagement of veterinary students in immunological research. The primary awardee must ensure that the research is carried out in accordance with all applicable local and state ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements, including any activities of third parties associated with the research. The primary awardee is accountable for the conduct of the personnel who are undertaking activities funded by VCCIS. Approval from a relevant ethical committee, if needed, is the responsibility of the primary awardee. Unless stated or otherwise agreed, all intellectual property shall belong to the individuals or institution that generates them. Any significant alterations to the research as outlined in your application for this grant must be communicated to VCCIS via science@vccis.org.

VCCIS reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or application policies at any time, including after funding any grant. VCCIS accepts no liability arising from the research it funds. The research must not bring the veterinary profession or VCCIS into disrepute, and all research must be undertaken according to codes of good laboratory and clinical practice. The recipient of any grant agrees to defend and hold VCCIS harmless for any issue or liability that arises associated with the use of the grant. If any of the terms and conditions are not followed, VCCIS reserves the right to require the repayment of the funds.

Please complete the application form using 12-point Arial font. To apply for research funding, please submit an electronic application to science@vccis.org by March 5, 2027 by 5 pm Eastern time.