



# D-SINE Africa

Data Science Center for Surgery, Injury, and Equity in Africa  
University of Buea, Cameroon  
E-mail: [contact@dsineafrika.org](mailto:contact@dsineafrika.org)  
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## PILOT PROJECT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

**I - About Us:** The Data Science Centre for the Study of Surgery, Injury and Equity in Africa (D-SINE Africa) is a research hub hosted at the University of Buea that aims to reduce the burden of injuries and bridge the gap of inequities to access to surgical services in African countries. D-SINE Africa is a multi-institutional partnership funded by the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and the **Fogarty International Center (FIC)**. It involves the following institutions:

- *University of Buea, Cameroon*
- *University of California; Los Angeles, USA*
- *University of California; Berkeley, USA*
- *University of Cape Town, South Africa*
- *African Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Cameroon*

## II - Program Description:

The *D-SINE Africa* pilot project is designed to foster pilot studies with aims related to D-SINE Africa's overall objectives and thematic areas of focus: data science applications to study trauma, surgery, and health equity in Africa. Applications that propose the study of the intersection of these themes are strongly encouraged. The program aims to support investigators interested in data science applications to trauma, surgical and health equity.

## III - Funding Opportunity:

The pilot project opportunity, which emphasizes career development, is open to D-SINE Africa partners and collaborators wishing to perform primary or secondary data collection and analysis to achieve the goals of the centre. Successful proposals could be funded for up to \$10,000 and will cover a maximum period of 12 months. The applicants to this grant or at least one of their mentors **MUST** be members of one of the partner institutions listed above. Collaboration among researchers at multiple campuses is encouraged and can be facilitated. Requests for funds to complete an existing project, carry out a fully powered study or which is not within the thematic areas of focus of D-SINE Africa will not be considered for funding.

#### **IV – Eligibility:**

At least one co-investigator on the grant application must be a D-SINE Africa Principal investigator or Co-Investigator. Other non-D-SINE Africa-affiliated investigators on faculty at a D-SINE affiliated institution can partner with the applicant investigator team.

#### **V – NIH Requirements:**

Interested applicants must meet the requirements of the Prime Funders (the National Institutes of Health and Fogarty International Center- NIH/FIC). Links have been provided at the side of each requirement to obtain the required information if unavailable. The requirements and corresponding links are:

- i. SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier number of PI's institution.  
Link: <https://sam.gov/content/home>.
- ii. eRA Commons account for all team members.  
Link: <https://www.era.nih.gov/era-training/commons.htm>
- iii. ORCID number for all team members. Link: <https://orcid.org>
- iv. Biosketches of all team members. Link: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

#### **VI - How to apply:**

Interested applicants should submit their full proposals to [contact@dsineafrika.org](mailto:contact@dsineafrika.org) on or before **November 24, 2023, at 4:00 pm Central African Time**. Any submission after the deadline will not be considered. The number of proposals to be awarded will be contingent on the availability of funds. Future cycles of proposals are anticipated annually, dependent on the availability of funds.

#### **Key Deadlines:**

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|---|-------------------|
| ➤ Release of call for full proposals: -----                   | October 27, 2023  |
| ➤ Submission deadline for full proposals: -----               | November 24, 2023 |
| ➤ Dispatch of proposals to reviewers: -----                   | November 30, 2023 |
| ➤ Receipt of feedback from reviewers -----                    | December 14, 2023 |
| ➤ Selection of final proposals for funding by committee ----- | December 21, 2023 |
| ➤ Notice of Awards: -----                                     | January 6, 2024   |

#### **VII– The Application:**

The full proposal **MUST** be submitted electronically alongside the biosketches of **ALL** investigators and collaborators. The application must contain the following:

1 - A title page with the following:

- The full descriptive title of the project
- Applicant PI Name, phone and email
- Name of Institution
- Names and roles of other key personnel/collaborators.

2 - The full project proposal must include the following:

- i. Project Narrative/Summary to include a succinct, informative, and accurate description of the proposed work. The application's broad, long-term objectives, specific aims and key focus

should be included. This is limited to 30 lines of text, single-spaced, Times New Roman, and 12 font size.

- ii. Specific Aims: One page document to concisely state the goals and specific objectives of the project. Summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved.
- iii. Research Strategy [A. Significance, B. Innovation, C. Approach (including methods to achieve each Specific Aim, outcome measures, analysis plan, timeline, and milestones), D. Ethical Consideration, and E. Research Environment]. This is limited to six pages, single-spaced, Times New Roman, and 12 font size.
- iv. Bibliography and References: A list of references cited.
- v. An itemized budget. Allowable costs include data collection material, core laboratory services and other ancillary services purchased from the health system, and compensation for hospital night shifts. Anyone already receiving salary from the D-SINE project is not eligible for salary under the pilot project.
- vi. Letter of support from the applicant's Division Chief, Department Chair, or Dean (one of them only) stating that they support the applicant's project and will ensure they have the time and resources to complete it if granted.
- vii. Letter of support of the applicant's mentor if the applicant is a trainee.

**NB:** *The applicant's last and first name, a brief project title (30 characters or less), and page numbers should appear on the footer of each page.*

## VIII– THE REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel chaired by the Pilot project officer. Proposals will be evaluated on six cross-cutting criteria (significance, innovation, approach, strength of investigators, environment and ethical consideration), in accordance to the NIH evaluation style and criteria specific to D-SINE Africa's core mission.

The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- i. Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review
- ii. Availability of funds
- iii. Relevance of the proposed project to *D-SINE Africa* priorities
- iv. Likelihood of practical application for future funding based on completion of this pilot project.

## IX – POST-AWARD

All applicants who submit a full proposal will receive a review of their submission. Successful applicants will sign a written agreement with D-SINE Africa, administer the fellowship according to the agreement, and provide progress and financial reports within stipulated timelines. They will be responsible for following up with all parallel procedures, such as administrative authorizations and ethical approval. The release of funds will be contingent on the submission of all authorizations. The research activities **MUST** be started within 02 (two) weeks of the release of funds.



**Prof. Chichom Mefire**

Director of D-SINE Africa Project