



# D-SINE Africa

Data Science Center for Surgery, Injury, and Equity in Africa

University of Buea, Cameroon

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## SEED GRANT 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* seed grant 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 Seed Grant Opportunity is open to all Africa-based investigators, excluding partners of *D-SINE Africa*. The proposal could be a project of primary data collection from established investigators or junior faculty pursuing new clinical research focusing on injuries, surgery and equity. Proposals from diverse research areas, including public health, clinical research, basic science, translational science, and health policy or economics applications, may all be considered.

Collaborative partnerships involving more than one faculty are particularly encouraged. Successful proposals could be funded to \$20,000 and will cover a maximum of 18 months. Collaboration among researchers at multiple campuses is encouraged. Requests for funds to complete an existing project, carry out a fully powered study or that do not meet *D-SINE Africa* thematic areas of focus will not be considered.

#### **IV – Eligibility:**

Africa-based investigators (who hold their primary appointment or affiliation at an African institution) can apply for D-SINE Seed Grants.

#### **V – NIH Requirements:**

Interested applicants must meet up with 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 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. Bio-sketches of all team members. Link: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

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

Interested applicants should submit their full proposal 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 bio-sketches 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 to include the summary, specific aims, methods, expected outcomes and impact, and references: This is limited to six pages, single-spaced, Times New Roman, and 12 font size.
- ii. 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, E. Research Environment and F. References].
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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 the project if they are granted an award
- v. Letter of support of the applicant's mentor if the applicant is a trainee.

**NB:** Please include a brief project title (30 characters or less) and page numbers on the footer of each page.

## VIII – THE REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel chaired by the Seed Grant projects 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-style evaluation metrics 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

## 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** start within 02 (two) weeks of the release of funds.