



PennState

**One Health
Microbiome Center**

Interdisciplinary Innovation Fellowships (IIFs): Call for Proposals

The Interdisciplinary Innovation Fellowships (IIFs) sponsored by the Penn State One Health Microbiome Center are an opportunity for all Center members to foster collaborative training opportunities spanning research, education, art, ethics, law, etc. within the groups of One Health Microbiome Center faculty. These fellowships enable participants to expand their expertise and studies through short-term training experiences in the laboratory of another Center faculty member or external partner. The goal is to expand the creative capabilities of the community while facilitating collaborative discovery among One Health Microbiome Center members. Trans-institutional collaborations are recommended spanning departments, colleges, campuses, and career stages (students to Faculty). Connecting traditionally siloed units will be given preference. There are two types of IIFs: INTERNAL IIFs permit trainees to work in the group of another PSU One Health Microbiome Center group, and EXTERNAL IIFs permit trainees to work in a group outside of Penn State to support the acquisition and dissemination of new expertise, scientific tools, or approaches within Penn State.

1. A maximum of 6 IIFs will be awarded in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
2. Both types of fellowships will be awarded up to \$5000.
3. These funds are intended to cover the cost of necessary supplies, services (e.g. core facility charges), equipment, and travel during the period of the fellowship.

Eligibility and Expectations for Awardees

1. Be an active member of the One Health Microbiome Center.
2. Attend the Center's Seminar Series in person on the University Park campus or by zoom if external.
3. Submit a one-page final report on June 1st, 2026, noting project outcomes, presentations, personnel, manuscripts, awards, and related grants supported by the seed funding.
4. Acknowledge the One Health Microbiome Center in presentations and publications.
5. Present project outcomes at the Center's seminar series the following academic year (30-min talk).

How to Apply for an IIF (single page pdf)

1. Include proposal title, all participants, career stages, and affiliations
2. Describe in one paragraph the proposed training opportunity and how it will enhance the participant's current research project (think big and integrative!). The introduction of new technological and/or experimental approaches to the research project as a result of the fellowship should be clearly stated.
3. Note inclusivity and diversity, inviting participation from underrepresented groups
4. Those seeking support for EXTERNAL IIFs should provide text describing the necessity to leave Penn State to acquire the new technology and a plan to disseminate it to other interested One Health Microbiome Center laboratories.
5. Include short statement and signature from each of the participants and hosting faculty confirming willingness to support the proposed training and attendance at the One Health Microbiome Center Seminar Series.
6. Identify funding agencies and programs that will subsequently support the work.
7. Add brief, itemized budgets and a justification.

By June 6th, 2025, send the single pdf of the application and CVs/biosketch of the non-faculty participants to Dr. Grace Deitzler (gfd5230@psu.edu). Proposals will be reviewed based on the criteria described in this call.