

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Project Title : Korea-US Collaborative Research Project_Korean Research-driven Hospital

- Research-driven Hospital : Hospitals certified by the Korean government as having excellent research personnel and infrastructure and being able to conduct collaborative researches such as (pre)clinical trials, product development, etc with schools, research institutes, and companies.

Korean Research-driven Hospitals perform as the center of virtuous cycle of 'Healthcare Technology Innovation', which is a flow, "R&D-Translational & Clinical Research-Commercialization-Product Development-Medical Treatment" that was established in order to enhance medical service and improve healthcare quality. Moreover, it has an ultimate goal to achieve public health promotion.

1. Purpose

To proactively secure excellence and global impact in advanced technology by building on the achievements of joint research between leading Korean and American research-centered hospitals and the R&D industry.

2. Eligibility

The Korean domestic R&D Institutions must be Korean research-driven hospitals designated under Article 15 of the Health and Medical Technology Promotion Act.

- Each research director may apply for only one project.

3. Participation Format

Projects application must be submitted as joint research teams, including at least one Overseas Institution.

Research director must be part of Overseas Institutions, selecting from the following project types: "General Type", "Joint Institution Type", "Separate Institution Type".

- * Eligible range of overseas institutions for this project: Hospitals, research institutes, and universities with main offices and research facilities located in the US (for-profit companies are not eligible).

The Korean domestic R&D Institution can be able to participate as Korean joint R&D institutions, if necessary.

- In "General Type" and "Separate Institution Type", Overseas Institutions are categorized as "organizations other than R&D organizations."
- In "Joint Institution Type", Overseas Institutions may participate as "joint R&D institutions" only if they bear the research expenses(cash or non-cash).

- * non-cash : human resources, facilities, equipments, etc

4. Research and Development Period and Budget

4.1 Total Research Period

2025 – 2027 (total 3 years)

* Research period for 2025 is 6 months, and 12 months per year from 2026 onward.

4.2 Research Budget

For 2025, approximately KRW 1,400 million

For 2026~2027, approximately KRW 2,800 million

5. Contents of Research and Development and Performance Goals

Performance goals	Scope of research
Researchers shall present at least one performance indicator each of ① scientific and technological research results, ② economic results, and ③ platform sophistication: ① Scientific and technological research results - (Example) At least one internationally co-authored paper in the top 5% of impact factor journals or an international patent registration. ② Economic (commercialization) research results - (Example) Non-clinical/clinical trials, technology transfer, commercialization, investment attraction, development of innovative medical technologies, FDA approvals, digital medical device clinical trials, international joint data platform establishment, and securing first-in-class medical core technologies. ③ Platform sophistication indicators - (Example) Milestone achievement for securing and utilizing platform technologies	(Research Areas) Medicine, medical devices, regenerative medicine, digital health, medical systems, etc. (Research Content) Global performance creation of research-centered hospital R&D platform, utilization of innovative ideas, new evidence creation and clinical evidence international joint research (Examples) - Evidence-based medicine/medical device development: biomarker discovery, efficacy evaluation, etc. - International medical data set analysis and application research. - Multi-ethnic data system development, sharing, and utilization. - Researcher-led joint clinical trials (IIT) for new target discovery. - Industry-linked global clinical trials based on research-centered hospital platform technology. - International collaborative research on hospital medical service systems. (Platform linkage) Proposal for platform expansion and integration.

	<p>Hardware (HW): Utilize research facilities/resources (e.g., human origin banks, clinical trial institutions).</p> <p>Software (SW): Propose platform advancements or integration.</p> <p>Human Resources: Define team composition (total number of researchers, key personnel such as research specialists).</p> <p>Expected Outcomes: Demonstrate contributions to platform competitiveness and technological advancement.</p>
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6. Special Notes

Applicants must select and apply under one of the three types “General Type”, “Joint Institution Type”, “Separate Institution Type”.

6-1. When applying the proposal

The project application must include details regarding research activities conducted by the overseas institution (including technical cooperation framework, role distribution, and research fund utilization plan).

- The following documents should be included in the initial application submission.

- * Proof of the intent to participate from the overseas institution research director(s) (such as a Letter of Intent (LOI), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), etc).

The amount of research grant paid to overseas institutions is to be determined by the project team based on the overseas institution's role and the degree of contribution to the joint research plan. However, indirect costs paid to overseas institutions must not exceed 38% of the entire direct costs.

The intellectual property rights management plan within the research plan (distribution of contributions and intellectual property rights, attribution of research and development outcomes, etc.), measures to prevent external technology leakage, etc. must be submitted with the contents that can confirm the conditions of cooperation included as mandatory

6-2. During the process of evaluation (oral presentation),

Overseas Institution's research plan implement presentation or recorded video (including Korean subtitles) can be used

- * In the case of "joint organization type" and "separate project type", presentation or recorded video submission is mandatory

6-3. When signing an agreement,

In the case of "Joint Institution Type", international contract, confidentiality

agreement, security agreement, research ethics compliance pledge must be submitted

6-4. Others

- The final evaluation will be conducted after a one-year performance registration period following the end of the project support (however, the final report will be submitted within 60 days after the end of the project in accordance with relevant regulations).
- Overseas Joint Researcher
 - Must be a researcher affiliated with a research institution located in the U.S.
 - If a researcher affiliated with a domestic research institution or located in Korea is simply dispatched, researcher, etc., and is affiliated with a U.S. cooperative institution, the application is not possible.

7. Selection Criteria & Evaluation Standards

Applicable points	Points will be awarded based on the ratio of self-research funds secured by foreign institutions in relation to this research (maximum 2 points). However, this applies only to general type and joint organization types. * Self-research utilization ratio: Research funds secured and utilized by foreign institutions compared to annual support funds * In case foreign institutions utilize their own research funds, they must present a 'Self-research Fund Utilization Plan' in the research proposal.	
Evaluation Category		Subcategory
Written / presentation evaluation	Appropriateness of the research plan (30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarity and appropriateness of research goals and directions (10) ○ Appropriateness of research and development objectives/promotion methods and Creativity of the overall research (10) ○ Specificity (comprehensiveness) and feasibility of the international joint research plan (10)
	Research capabilities of Platform and researchers (20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appropriateness of research plans utilizing the domestic platform (10) ○ Research capabilities of domestic institutions and researchers (5) ○ Research capabilities of overseas institutions and researchers (5)
	International joint research (30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Necessity of joint research between Korea and the US (10) ○ Degree of pre-cooperation foundation established between domestic and US institutions (10) ○ Appropriateness of role sharing and between each groups/institutions (10)
	Achievement and Expected impact (20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Validity of performance goals and performance indicators (10) ○ Future impact of research results (10)
*Note: Some evaluation categories and point allocations may change during the establishment of the selection and evaluation plan. The accurate schedules of evaluation will be posted in the upcoming announcement with the possibility of oral presentation.		