

## cMEDA Faculty/Postdoc Seed Grants for Microbiome Research

The purpose of this program is to catalyze the development of *new microbiome-oriented research programs* at VCU. cMEDA will provide support for early stage and transitional faculty, or postdoctoral investigators working with faculty mentors to launch new microbiome-oriented studies potentially leading to new intra or extramurally funded research programs.

### Eligibility and requirements for applicants

1. **early stage investigators** as defined by the NIH, with interests in microbiome-oriented research,
2. **established investigators** launching into new microbiome research, or
3. **postdoctoral investigators** in laboratories with interests in developing new avenues of research focused on microbiome-oriented research.

Faculty and postdocs in all VCU colleges and schools are eligible to apply.

cMEDA Faculty/Postdoc Microbiome Seed Grants will provide seed funds of up to \$10,000 to support development of new microbiome-oriented avenues of research. The seed funds can be used for:

1. Reagents for purification of nucleic acids
2. Reagents for generation of sequencing libraries
3. Funds to support processing and/or sequencing in the Genomics Core
4. Funds to support analysis of microbiome data

**Note: salary/stipend support is not permitted.** These limited funds are expected to support preliminary data that might lead to new intramural or extramural microbiome-oriented proposals.

The number of cMEDA Faculty/Postdoc Microbiome Seed Grants is limited and competitive.

*cMEDA will provide assistance in experimental design and planning, protocols for purification of nucleic acids and library generation, validated primers for 16S taxonomic profiling, and limited support for analysis of results.*

### Application process

Complete the [cMEDA Faculty/Postdoctoral Microbiome Seed Grant application form](#).

Postdocs must provide a memo from their current supervisor supporting the application and committing to coverage of the applicant's salary.

Provide an NIH or NSF Style Biosketch

**Review of applications.** Applications will be judged on:

- The quality of the applicant for their level of preparation
- The research plan; significance, research strategy, probability of success.
- Relevance to microbiome research
- Probability of leading to new funding proposals

### Grant Recipient Obligations

- Perform the research within a reasonable period
- Present results (orally or as a poster) at a cMEDA Research Symposium of 2026-2027.
- Acknowledge support of the cMEDA Microbiome Seed Grant in all communications.

### Dates

- Application submission: April 15, 2026
- Decision release: early May, 2026
- Funds available: mid-May

**For more information, please contact:**

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