

IMPC – INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (IMPC) is a group of major mouse genetics research institutions formed, along with national funding organizations, to address the challenge of developing an encyclopedia of mammalian gene function ([Reference for more information](#)). The IMPC is undertaking a ten year program of broad-based, systematic genome-wide phenotyping of knock-out mice generated from the embryonic stem cell mutant resources developed by the International Knock-out Mouse Consortium (IKMC). The goal of the current Phase I is to produce and phenotype 5,000 mouse lines in five years to serve as the pilot for the larger Phase II program: to complete the production and phenotyping of the mammalian genome in the second five year period. Institutional members of the IMPC have joined Phase I by committing to produce and/or phenotype at least 50 mouse lines/year using IKMC resources; each member will contribute in mouse production, high throughput primary phenotyping, or secondary in-depth testing, and freely distribute the biological and data resources to the international research community. Funding members of the IMPC have committed to ensure their best endeavours to provide funding support to the IMPC program. During this first phase, the IMPC seeks to improve efficiencies, streamline operations, increase throughput, reduce costs, test new phenotyping platforms, improve coordination among members, and reach out to the broader scientific and medical community.

To help accomplish these goals, the IMPC is requesting input and potential partnerships with the private sector. The IMPC currently comprises 16 Research and 6 Funding members, and together makes a substantial customer base and opportunity for scientific synergy with industry.

We seek to engage with industry at several levels:

- (1) **“Institutional” Membership** on the IMPC Steering Committee. This requires:
 - a. A track record of experience in high throughput phenotyping and/or large-scale knockout mouse production, allied to the physical resources to undertake such activities, or expertise in specialized (“Secondary”) phenotyping that would add value to the resource and database.
 - b. For phenotyping centres, a commitment to phenotype not less than 50 lines per year, preferably rising to 100 lines per year within the lifetime of Phase I of the IMPC programme.
 - c. For production centres, a commitment to generate not less than 50 lines per year, with the ability to distribute live mice, embryos, and sperm, preferably rising to 100 lines per year within the lifetime of Phase I of the IMPC programme.
 - d. For Secondary phenotyping groups, a commitment to share data with the IMPC as a whole, and deposit the data into the IMPC Database in a timely fashion.
 - e. Agreement to work within the framework of the consortium, including commonly agreed phenotyping pipelines and IT structures.
 - f. Demonstrable ability to provide the IT infrastructure for the local capture of production and/or phenotyping data and its upload to the IMPC data coordination centre(s).
 - g. Agreement to the full release of data to data coordination centres according to IMPC agreed procedures and timelines.
 - h. Agreement of production centers to provide the community access to live mice, embryos, and sperm as soon as possible without intended hold backs, subject to legal or MTA restrictions.
 - i. Payment of a one-time £50,000 membership fee.

This category of membership gives full and equal voting rights, and affords the member the opportunity to help shape the direction of the IMPC.

- (2) **“Corporate Sponsorship”**. We are inviting interested parties to contribute to the IMPC directly through long-term sponsorship. A yearly subscription to the IMPC would allow:
- a. Access to meetings and networking events.
 - b. Sponsors to market their products and services at IMPC meetings as well as on the IMPC website.
 - c. Access to IMPC forums on scientific working groups (e.g. mouse production and phenotyping) and receive non-confidential minutes of IMPC steering committee meetings.
 - d. Opportunity to present at IMPC meetings.

This category of sponsorship requires an annual fee of £15,000 (equivalent to support of 3 meetings). It is envisioned that this sponsorship could develop into full corporate partnership (see below).

- (3) **“Corporate Partnership”**. We are also interested in entering into bespoke collaborative or commercial partnerships dedicated to specific scientific or operational activities. The types of partnering can include, but are not limited to, the following areas:
- a. Mouse purchasing:
 - i. Inbred strains, mutants (e.g. knockouts), reporters, deleters
 - b. Mouse breeding products and services:
 - i. Supplies, food, bedding,
 - ii. Health surveillance,
 - iii. Genotyping services and supplies,
 - iv. Caging systems;
 - c. Providing phenotyping equipment for many applications, such as metabolism, sensory, behavior, cardiovascular, immunology, and lung function. See <http://www.mousephenotype.org/> for more information on the current standardized tests
 - d. Providing animal imaging equipment and services:
 - i. Optical imaging, including fluorescence, luminescence;
 - ii. Non-invasive imaging such as ultrasound, MRI, X-ray, CT, PET
 - e. Serving as test sites for new equipment where appropriate;
 - f. Developing specialized or customized equipment such as home cage testing and telemetry for adoption by the entire IMPC;
 - g. Improving software for data access, management, and integration
 - h. Strategic grant funding: we encourage Corporate Partners to consider cooperating with existing IMPC members to form collaborations or contract work to seek additional external funding by leveraging the expertise and resources of each party

In seeking potential commercial relationships, the IMPC is not able to engage in exclusive arrangements or act as a product validation agency.

We request that any interested parties submit proposals to the IMPC at any time for consideration. While substantial attention to these proposals will occur during 2012, additional submissions will be accepted after this date as we appreciate that technology, business climates, and research directions may change over the

five year period of Phase I. We approach this solicitation of interest as an iterative process, and expect that some groups will desire interaction with the IMPC to develop the best possible partnerships and proposals.

More information about the IMPC and the partnerships with industry, and how to apply to become a partner can be found on: www.mousephenotype.org

Or contact:

Executive Director:

Mark Moore, PhD

Email: m.moore@mousephenotype.org

Project and Communications Manager:

Hilary Gates, PhD

Email: h.gates@har.mrc.ac.uk