Call for Research Proposals: Centre for Pandemics and One-Health Research (P1H)
Call deadline: 16.10.2023 17:00
Grant: Up to 1.2 MNOK to facilitate one interdisciplinary project.

Background and objective
The primary objective of The Centre for Pandemics and One-Health Research (P1H), part of the Sustainable Health Unit (SUSTAINIT) at the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Oslo (UiO), is to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, ensure ethical considerations, and promote effective policy translation to contribute to ground-breaking solutions to discrete global health challenges relevant to our area.

With support from UiO:Life Science, P1H invites faculty members from all faculties and departments at UiO to submit project proposals. Submissions must align with our Research Themes (see below) and aim to resolve key gaps and challenges in pandemic and one-health research.

Research Themes:
1. Engage in research that addresses key research gaps and challenges in pandemic and one-health domains.

2. Develop cross-disciplinary collaborative solutions to enhance pandemic preparedness and cross-sectoral coordination and demonstrate the use of these solutions to make us better prepared for future challenges, such as Disease X.

3. Analyze societal dynamics in pandemic response and pandemic management.

4. Develop models for more effectively translating knowledge into policy and practice and apply these models to making us better prepared for future disease outbreaks.

Some examples of research topics emerged from expert discussions on the Research Themes. These encompass, but are not limited to, studies such as:

Environmental Interfaces: One of the main pillars of one-health is understanding how environmental health influences animal and human health. Consider a theme that dives into the environmental drivers of disease emergence, such as deforestation, urbanization, or climate change.

Sustainability and One-Health: Exploring the interconnectedness of sustainable practices, ecological dynamics in a One-Health perspective.

Surveillance Systems: Both pandemic preparedness and the one-health approach rely heavily on surveillance. This can encompass monitoring wildlife diseases that

have zoonotic potential, tracking antimicrobial resistance across species, or creating unified surveillance systems that collect data from human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

Health Economics: Understanding the economic implications of pandemics and prevention measures can guide better policymaking. Research could explore the cost-effectiveness of interventions or quantify the economic impacts of pandemics on different sectors.

Historical and Modern Stigmatization: Examining the patterns of stigmatization associated with diseases, both historically and in contemporary times, and its impact on affected communities.

Historical Precedents: Studying past pandemics, epidemics, and outbreaks to derive lessons on response mechanisms, societal impact, and long-term implications.

Religious and Political Responses to Pandemics: Analysis of religious doctrines and how different faiths respond to health crises. This includes examining religious influence on health behaviors, compliance with public health interventions, and the role of religious institutions in health education and support.

Human Rights in Health Emergencies: Investigating potential infringements on human rights during health crises, like the right to health, movement, privacy, and information.

Cultural and Behavioral Dimensions: Socio-cultural factors play a crucial role in how communities respond to health advisories, participate in vaccination campaigns, or change behavior in the face of an emerging disease.

Antimicrobial and Antiviral Resistance: Given the close links between human health, animal health, and environmental health in the spread of resistance, this is an important topic for a one-health approach.

Intersectoral Governance and Policy: How can different sectors (human health, animal health, environment) better collaborate at the policy and governance level? This can involve studying the barriers to intersectoral collaboration and suggesting frameworks for better integration.

Digital Health and Technological Innovations: The utilization of technology, especially in surveillance, data collection, and disease modeling, is increasingly important. This theme could explore how emerging technologies can be leveraged in the one-health approach and pandemic preparedness.

Epidemiological Modeling across Species Barriers: This would involve studying how diseases spread within and between species and how changes in the environment or human behavior might impact that spread.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Collaborative Nature:** Proposals should be a collaborative effort involving 2-3 CoPIs from a minimum of 2 Faculties ("fakulteter") at UiO. We expect that the CoPIs include at least 2 postdocs or PhDs in the project. External (national or international) collaborators are encouraged, but not required.
- **Alignment:** All proposals must be in line with the specified Research Theme(s).
- **Content Requirements:** Proposals should delineate research objectives, methodologies to be employed, necessary resources, expected outcomes, and potential impact.
- **Assessment Criteria:** Emphasis will be on scientific excellence, expected outcomes of the research, feasibility, and innovation.

Documentary Requirements:

- **Proposal:** The proposal should include the research question(s), methods, the roles of each member of the team and must demonstrate a collaborative effort. No more than 5 pages, 12-point Times New Roman font (10-pt font for Table and Fig captions), single spacing, 2 cm margins.
- **Budget:** Funding is primarily to "frikjøp" researcher time, 3x30% positions, but also to generally support a multidisciplinary project. The budget should include a detailed breakdown of costs, ensuring practicality and justification.
- **Curriculum Vitae:** Main applicants (PIs from each Faculty) are allowed up to 2 pages each.
- **Letters of confirmation:** A letter signed by the department head of each PI.

Application Procedure:

- **Submission Deadline:** 16.10.2023 17:00
- **Project duration:** One year, 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024, with a possibility for a 2-year extension. If the project is meeting expectations during the first 6 months, P1H, together with the project leaders, will submit an application to UiO:Life Science for extended funding for the project.
- **Submission Method:** Proposals should be submitted as a single pdf via email to p1h@sustainit.uio.no.
- **Evaluation:** Proposals will undergo a comprehensive review based on scientific merit, relevance to thematic areas, and potential impact.
- **Notification:** Successful applicants will be informed by mid-November.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Details on funding provisions will be provided to the selected project(s).

For inquiries and submission details, please contact Jason D. Whittington, P1H Coordinator, at jasonwh@ibv.uio.no

Join us in advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and driving transformative solutions in the critical fields of pandemics and one-health research. P1H at UiO is committed to creating a lasting impact on global health through rigorous research and meaningful partnerships.