

**IsDB-TWAS JOINT RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT – 2020:
QUICK-RESPONSE RESEARCH ON COVID-19**

GUIDELINES

Applicants are advised to read this document to ensure that they fulfil all the requirements in preparing applications and are familiar with general policies and guidelines concerning grants.

General Information

- **The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)**- www.isdb.org - is a multilateral development bank (MDB), working to improve the lives of those we serve by promoting social and economic development in Member countries and Muslim communities worldwide, delivering impact at scale.
- **The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) - for the advancement of science in developing countries** – www.twas.org – is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for science-based development in the South.
- IsDB and TWAS partnered to promote and support research on key challenges directly or indirectly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The IsDB-TWAS Joint Research and Technology Transfer Grant Programme is fully funded by the IsDB and established to develop collaboration between researchers of IsDB member countries.
- Under this scheme, qualified researchers from 57 IsDB countries working are invited to form **a joint research collaboration** consisting of two groups working on challenges directly and indirectly related to COVID-19. Grants will be awarded to enable the collaborating groups to purchase the research equipment and strengthen the facilities they need to enhance their partnership, productivity and to support the movement and remote collaboration of scientists between the participating institutions for training and collaboration purposes. Should travel between institutions be possible, such visits should have a duration of between 2 and 4 weeks. Collaborating partners should ensure, through the grant, that enough consumable supplies are available during such visits.
- One of the two groups must be within an **IsDB Least Developed Country** (see list in [green](#) below)
- Preference will be given to applications where at least one of the two Principal investigators/researchers is a female; where absent, inclusion of women in the project must be visible.

- The IsDB-TWAS Joint Research & Technology Transfer Grant will be awarded to the project which demonstrates the best potential to advance knowledge and help address the present and future challenges created by the COVID-19 outbreak, while ensuring strong collaboration between the partner institutes.
- The research proposal must demonstrate transformational research with concrete results and outcome.
- The grant amounts to a maximum of US\$ 50,000, per group.
- A grant is normally provided for a period of 24 months.
- A grant may be used to purchase scientific equipment and consumables and support the travel of scientists between the two participating institutions. The grant may also cover, where justified, expenses related to field work. The grant does not cover salaries of researchers and/or students. In addition, the purchase of laptop computers and laboratory animals are not supported.

Research Areas

- Examples of specific themes include, but are not limited to:
 - Epidemiology of COVID-19
 - Dealing with consequences of COVID-19
 - Regional studies of COVID-19 infection
 - Identification of possible sources of viruses: prevention of new zoonotic diseases
 - HIV, SARS, MERS, COVID-19: lessons to learn on infections arising through species jump
 - Evolution of viral disease: from animal to human and mutations of human strains
 - Developing an emergency R&D response to any emerging infectious disease
 - Discovery and development of diagnostics and therapeutics in viral outbreaks
 - Dealing with viral infections: real-time data collection of the spread and preparation for future outbreaks
 - Remote diagnosis and treatment

Eligibility Criteria

- A Principle Investigator (PI) must be a national of an IsDB member country and holds a PhD with good research experience and lead each research group. **(Note: The PI will be responsible for the coordination of the research, submission of requested documentation, management of the funds and reporting of the expenses. All TWAS correspondence will be with this PI).**
- Each member of the group should operate in a university or research institution in one of the 57 IsDB member countries and should be represented in the proposal by a PI. No age limit is applied to the grant.

- Applications from women scientists are especially encouraged.
- Individual young scientists or leaders of research units currently holding a TWAS Research Grant in the Basic Sciences are not eligible.

How to apply:

- Applications must be submitted **online via the link** <https://twas.org/opportunity/isdb-twas-joint-research-technology-transfer-grant-2020-quick-response-research-covid-19>
Applications not submitted online will not be considered.
- **No applications will be accepted after the deadline of 2 July, 2020 (midnight Rome time).** Therefore, it is recommended to submit your electronic application as early as possible.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

* COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS

Least Development Member Countries (LDMCs)

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Yemen.

Non-LDMCs

Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan