

**IsDB-TWAS JOINT RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT,
2021:QUICK-RESPONSE RESEARCH ON COVID-19**

GUIDELINES

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

General Information

- The World Academy of Science for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) partnered to support research on challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The IsDB-TWAS Joint Research and Technology Transfer Grant is fully funded by the IsDB and established to develop collaboration between researchers of IsDB member countries.
- Under this programme, qualified researchers from the 57 IsDB countries are invited to form a **joint research collaboration** consisting of two groups working on challenges directly and indirectly related to COVID-19. The grants will enable the groups to purchase the research equipment they need to enhance their partnership and productivity, and to support the movement and remote collaboration of scientists between the two participating institutions. Should travel between institutions be possible, such visits should have a duration of a minimum of 2 to a maximum of 4 weeks. Through the grant, partners should ensure that enough consumable supplies are available during such visits.
- Participants of one of the two groups must be residents and/or nationals of the **IsDB least developed countries** (see list in **green** below)
- Preference will be given to applications in which 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 and Technology Transfer Grant will be awarded to the project with 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 \$ 50,000, per group
- A grant is 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, nor the purchase of laptop and laboratory animals.

Research Areas

Examples of specific themes include, but are not limited to:

- Epidemiology of COVID-19
- Consequences of COVID-19
- Regional studies of COVID-19 infection
- Identification of possible sources of viruses: prevention of new zoonotic diseases
- HIV, SARS, MERS and COVID-19: lessons to learn on infections arising through species jump
- Evolution of viral disease: from animal to human and mutations of human strains
- Development of an emergency research and development response to emerging infectious diseases
- Discovery and development of diagnostics and therapeutics in viral outbreaks
- How to deal with viral infections: real-time data collection of the spread and preparation for future outbreaks
- Remote diagnosis and treatment.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Principle Investigator (PI) of every team must: (a) be a national of an IsDB member country, (b) hold a PhD with good research experience and (c) lead her/his research group. **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 two groups should operate in a university or research institution in one of the 57 IsDB member countries. No age limit is applied to the grant. One of the two groups must be in an IsDB Least Developed Country.

- Applications from women scientists are 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 only** via the following link: [IsDB-TWAS Joint Research & Technology Transfer Grant 2021: Quick-Response Research on COVID-19 | TWAS](#)
- Applications not submitted online will not be considered
- **No applications will be accepted after the deadline of 5 July, 2021 (11.59 pm, 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

IsDB least developed 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 (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

Background information

- **The [Islamic Development Bank \(IsDB\)](#)** is a multilateral development bank working to improve the lives of those it serves by promoting social and economic development in its member countries and Muslim communities worldwide.
- **The [World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries \(TWAS\)](#)** is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS



THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
for the advancement of science in developing countries

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.