IBM-Illinois Discovery Accelerator Institute
Seed Project Request for Proposals
(March 2022)

The IBM-Illinois Discovery Accelerator Institute ("IIDA-Institute") is a new model of academic-industry partnership designed to increase access to technology education and skill development, spur breakthroughs in emerging areas of technology, and accelerate the discovery of solutions to complex global challenges. The current research program of the IIDA-Institute is built on a close collaboration between the University of Illinois and IBM researchers working in the areas of hybrid cloud and AI, quantum computing, accelerated materials discovery, and sustainability.

The IIDA-Institute launched in the Fall of 2021. With the goal of strengthening the engagement between IBM and the University of Illinois and broadening participation of IBM and Illinois researchers, the Institute is devoting approximately 10% of its year 2 budget to support approximately ten (10) seed projects, each with a fixed budget of $75K, a start date of August 16, 2022, and a term of 9-12 months. All project budgets should include faculty Academic Year cost share totaling 25% of the sponsor request (e.g., if requesting $75K from IBM funds, Illinois must provide $18,750 equivalent in AY time).

Scope of the solicitation

The IIDA-Institute welcomes proposals in one or more of the general areas of interest listed below.

1. Hybrid Cloud
2. Artificial Intelligence accelerated scientific discovery
3. Quantum Computing hardware and software
4. Materials Discovery accelerated by hybrid cloud, AI, and quantum computing
5. Sustainability and future of climate

All seed proposals must include a close collaboration between University of Illinois and IBM researchers. For help in identifying potential collaborators at IBM Research Division, please contact the IBM leader of the current research thrust that is most closely aligned with the proposed work or the IBM co-director, Daby Sow (sowdaby@us.ibm.com). IBM thrust leaders are:

- Dr. Priya Nagpurkar (hybrid cloud and AI for accelerated scientific discoveries): pnagpurkar@us.ibm.com
- Dr. Kayla Lee (quantum computing hardware and software): Kayla.Lee@ibm.com
- Dr. Stacey Gifford (sustainability and future of climate): smgifford@us.ibm.com
- Dr. Jed Pitera (accelerated materials discovery): pitera@us.ibm.com

The submission deadline for seed proposals is 5:00 PM (CST) on Monday, May 16, 2022. More details on the solicitation and preparation of the proposal can be found here (accessible from an Illinois Box account only).

A general information session regarding the solicitation will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 10:00 AM (CST). Register Here.

Questions may be addressed to Vivian Gray, IIDA-Institute Assistant Director vgray@illinois.edu.