

NHB Nutrition Research Proposal Overview and Guidelines

OVERALL SCOPE

Program Objective: Explore honey attributes across their wide-ranging sensory experiences and culinary uses, including use of honey paired with nutritious foods and in modern diet patterns.

- The primary purpose is to understand use and health effects of honey among the general North America population. Therefore, most research will be in the form of interventions or observational studies among humans with supportive mechanism of action studies. Research study designs are expected to include compositional analysis of honey, as well as physiologic benefits to humans using observational studies, modeling assessments, in-vitro testing and human intervention trials.
- Dietary and topical uses may be considered.
- Exclusions include: raw honey, use among infants (<1 years of age), others specified in the request for specific proposals.

Projects will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Compatibility with NHB's objectives outlined in the request for proposals
2. Overall scientific merit, feasibility, and originality
3. Total budget and affordability with project cost sharing having a substantive advantage.
4. Level of demonstrated expertise by PI and institution

OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

Transparency

- The main emphasis is to support research intended for publication in high quality, peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- Some preliminary, pilot or method development research may be conducted to prepare for larger scale research and as such, may not be suitable for publication as a stand-alone paper. Its intended purpose for method development decision-making would be determined in advance.
- Research with potential to create patent protectable intellectual property will be handled such that confidentiality is maintained until patent protections are in place, after which scientific publishing would be pursued.

Budget requirements

- Research funds may be applied only to future research, not to work completed by researchers in the past.

- Equipment purchases are discouraged, but would be considered in circumstances in which quality of work would be compromised without special equipment.
- In-direct costs of all types will be limited to a maximum 10%.
- Funding to present research findings at meetings by researchers are excluded from research budgets.
- Publication fees are to be included in the budget, including page charges and access fees up to US\$3,000.00, which provides access for free (full open access is more costly and at the discretion and through separate funding of the PI).
- Product samples for control and testing will be collected, stored and shipped to the NHB designated testing labs for composition analysis in a quantity and manner to be specified by NHB. NHB will assume costs for shipping and this additional compositional analysis beyond researcher conducted.
- Studies with supporting resources (contributed staffing or matching funds) that reduce costs will be given priority.

Scientific integrity principles

From: Rowe et al. "Funding food science and nutrition research: financial conflicts and scientific integrity" *Am J Clin Nutr* 2009; 89(5):1285–1291.

1. Conduct or sponsor research that is factual, transparent, and designed objectively, and, according to accepted principles of scientific inquiry, the research design will generate an appropriately phrased hypothesis and the research will answer the appropriate questions, rather than favor a particular outcome
2. Requires control of both study design and research itself to remain with scientific investigators
3. Researchers will not offer or accept remuneration geared to the outcome of a research project
4. Ensure, before the commencement of studies, that there is a written agreement that the investigative team has the freedom and obligation to attempt to publish the findings within a specified time frame
5. Require, in publications and conference presentations, full-signed disclosure of all financial interests by researchers.
6. Researchers will not participate in undisclosed paid authorship arrangements in industry-sponsored publications or presentations
7. Researchers guarantee accessibility to all data and control of statistical analysis by investigators and appropriate auditors/reviewers
8. Require that academic researchers, when they work in contract research organizations (CRO) or act as contract researchers, make clear statements of their affiliation; and require that such researchers publish only under the auspices of the CRO

Additionally,

9. Pre-registration is required for clinical trials (clinicaltrials.gov) and systematic evidence reviews (Prospero)
10. Datasets may be made publicly available, e.g., Center for Open Science data repository (<https://cos.io/>).

Questions and all correspondence regarding nutrition research sponsored by the National Honey Board are to be emailed to research@nhb.org so it may be directed to the appropriate staff for response.