

## The Guinea Worm Eradication Program (GWEP) Request for Pre-proposals

### Keywords

Therapeutics, diagnostics, parasite and vector biology, vaccines, genomics, modeling, and disease ecology

### Background

Since the 1986, The Carter Center (TCC) Guinea Worm Eradication Program (GWEP) has led the international campaign to eradicate Guinea worm (*Dracunculus medinensis*), in close collaboration with ministries of health and local communities, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention among other partners across the world. From millions of human cases early in the campaign, to just 27 in 2020, the global eradication effort was heading towards a unique place in medical history—first parasitic disease to be eradicated and the first disease to be eradicated without the use of a vaccine or medicine. In recent years, eradication efforts have been protracted by an unprecedented number of animal infections in endemic countries, specifically domestic dogs and cats.

The Carter Center is seeking pre-proposals for the development of innovative tools and applied research that could lead to the development or enhancement of interventions to stop transmission among all definitive hosts, namely domestic dogs and cats, baboons, and humans.

### Scope & Goals

This a **broad open continuous announcement** for research that could lead to the development of treatments, novel diagnostics tools (rapid diagnostic test-RDT and laboratory-based platforms), vaccines, and effective control measures at the parasite or vector level. Research aiming to better understand the disease ecology in domestic and wild animals is also welcome. Strong pre-proposals with an achievable timeline will be invited to submit a full proposal.

- Target host(s): domestic dogs and cats, baboons, and humans.
- Approach: Leverage of well-established research and platforms (similar or analogous field) will be prioritized over *de novo* research.
- Timeline: The ideal project will be completed in 1-2 years.

### Possible Roadblocks & Limitations

The availability of *D. medinensis* associated biological materials and samples could be a roadblock, however TCC-GWEP is committed to facilitate the exchange of biological materials currently available in our network of investigators. Additionally, TCC will facilitate the collection and transfer of biological samples from endemic countries.



## Submission Guidelines & Requirements

- The pre-proposal shall not exceed 2 pages in length (Times New Roman or Arial 11 pt.), single spaced, top & bottom margins 1", left & right margins no less than 0.5", and shall not include figures or graphics. Tables to depict budget and timeline are acceptable (*pre-proposals exceeding 2 pages or with addendums and attachments will not be considered*).
- Clearly state how the proposed project is addressing the scope and goals, include a timeline with deliverables, and a budget (*including salaries and any required indirect cost or overhead*). **In addition, specify what type(s) of biological materials and samples the TCC-GWEP would need to facilitate access to through our network of collaborators or from the field.**
- The document can be submitted in English or French using a Word or PDF format (*invited full proposals will only be accepted in English*).
- Please address the pre-proposal, additional documents, and questions to: Adam Weiss, [adam.weiss@cartercenter.org](mailto:adam.weiss@cartercenter.org). You should expect a confirmation email within 1 business day of your submission. Invitations for full proposals will be sent via email within 1 month of the pre-proposal evaluation. **This RFP will remain open until research needs are met.**
- In separate files from the pre-proposal, please submit:
  - Brief cover letter (1 page) that includes: the title of the project, name and contact information of the principal investigator (PI), address of the hosting institution, and names and affiliations of co-PIs and relevant collaborating partners.
  - *Curriculum vitae* (PI and co-PIs).
- Funding: This initiative is not bound to a funding cap; however, support is contingent to TCC-GWEP budget projections and could average \$100-400K per year.