Letter from TDAI's Faculty Director

Dear TDAI community members,

TDAI is excited to announce a new initiative to help catalyze **Big Interdisciplinary Ideas.** With the rapidly changing landscape of data analytics and AI, this is an exciting time for us to foster innovation, collaboration, and impactful programs.

Think Big! That's the motto for this (funding) initiative. I encourage you all to dream beyond the ordinary, envisioning bold and transformative ideas that can shape the future of data science, AI, science, and society. What are you excited, passionate, curious about? What themes and programs will drive growth, foster connections, and elevate our collective expertise? Let's dream together.

We are soliciting proposals for a central theme that will be the focus of TDAI programming for a year, with a longer-term vision. The theme will be led by a dedicated passionate group of faculty that will define the scope and the programming to implement the theme. TDAI will fund the selected themes and teams and will support the implementation through a variety of opportunities. Here are some examples of the implementation opportunities:

1. **Faculty in Residence**: Imagine having renowned experts from diverse fields collaborating with us. What could they contribute to our research ecosystem?
2. **Visiting Scholars and Speakers**: Who are the visionaries we'd love to host? What insights can they offer?
3. **Conferences and Symposia**: Let's organize gatherings that bring together thought leaders, practitioners, and students. What cutting-edge topics should we explore?
4. **Networking Opportunities**: How can we facilitate meaningful connections within and beyond our institute? Think workshops, mixers, and collaborative events.
5. **Boot Camps and Workshops**: Equip our community with cutting-edge skills. What topics are in demand?
6. **Research Pods**: Bring teams together for sustained conversations over time. What deep convergences may be explored? Is there potential to explore community engagement, collaborative grants or other scholarly activities?
7. **Outreach Programs**: Engage with the broader community, schools, and industry partners. How can we effectively share our knowledge and expertise beyond our walls?
8. **Science Communicators in Residence**: How can we bridge the gap between research and the public? Let's inspire curiosity.
9. **Student Research Programs**: Our students are the future. How can we involve them in impactful projects?
10. **Poster Sessions and Research Conferences**: Celebrate our achievements. What breakthroughs do we want to highlight?

Remember, this list is merely a starting point. Your creativity knows no bounds! Let's ignite conversations, collaborate across disciplines, and shape the future of data science and AI at Ohio State!

Warm regards,
Dr. Tanya Berger-Wolf

Request for Proposals (RFP): Big Ideas Yearlong Thematic Programs

The Translational Data Analytics Institute (TDAI) is accepting proposals for researcher-driven, yearlong thematic programs to catalyze big ideas toward realizing TDAI's mission: to enable interdisciplinary, responsible and big data-enabled research with impact in society. All topics are welcome, with special consideration given to proposals that relate to TDAI's strategic research directions:

- Foundations of AI
- Responsible and Ethical Data Science
- Climate, Environment and Sustainability
- Health and Well-Being

Winning proposals will be awarded funding, in-kind space and in-kind staff assistance for proposed activities and programs. Activities and programs might include the following:

- Faculty in Residence
- Visiting Scholars and Speakers
- Conferences and Symposia
- Networking Activities
- Boot Camps and Workshops
- Research Pods
- Outreach Programs
- Science Communicators in Residence
- Student Research Programs
- Poster Sessions and Research Conferences
- Other innovative activities and programs (Remember, Think Big!)

REQUIREMENTS

A TDAI Big Ideas Thematic Program is <u>required</u> to:

- Have submitted a letter of intent (LOI) on October 25, 2024. **{If you did not submit an LOI but would like to join one of the proposing teams, please let us know.}**
- Be led and developed by a **multi-disciplinary planning/organizing committee (MPI, multiple PIs)**. The faculty on this committee should be TDAI affiliates or core faculty and represent different departments and distinct disciplines.
- Have an explicit AI, data science and/or analytics component.
- Consist of multiple connected components that together create a multi-perspective exploration of a topic with societal and scientific impact.
- Be innovative and convergent across two or more distinct research disciplines.
- Be completed within one year.

PROCESS AND TIMELINES

- **Proposals are due on March 16th, 2025**.
- During March-April 2025 teams will pitch their proposals to TDAI and other stakeholders.
- Proposals will be reviewed during May - June 2025 with awards announced in June 2025.
- Thematic programs will be funded for one year, beginning July 1, 2025. Extensions will not be permitted.
- Funding/support beyond 1-year will be considered contingent upon program progress and availability of funds.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Eligible proposals will be reviewed and scored by faculty subject matter experts, leadership faculty of TDAI, funding and community partners, and university administrators based on the following criteria:

Strategy
The focusing question and proposed program:
- Leverage specific research strengths at Ohio State
- Engage unique combinations of research strengths that differentiate Ohio State
- Map to national priorities and extramural opportunities

Intellectual Merit
The focusing question and proposed program:
- Are academically compelling and clearly stated.
- Have potential to catalyze transformational research at Ohio State.
- Have explicit data science and/or analytics components.
- Have societal value.
- Include ethical considerations of the research and broader implications.

Inclusivity
- The proposed activities are designed to engage members of TDAI, Ohio State, and external communities.
- The organizing team includes members from:
    o Diverse disciplines
    o Different career stages
    o Underrepresented groups as defined by NSF
- The intended participants for proposed activities include members from:
    o Diverse disciplines
    o Different career stages
    o Underrepresented groups as defined by NSF

Outcomes and Evaluation
The proposal:
- Describes expected outcomes that are worthwhile and justified.
- Includes a definition of success and relevant metrics that are reasonable and appropriate.
- Identifies one or more types of extramural funding mechanism that demonstrate potential extramural opportunities for ideas and teams that develop from the activities.

Timeline
The work as outlined can be accomplished within one year.

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS
Be sure to reference items in the PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA section above when drafting your proposal.

PROPOSAL FORMAT
Proposals are required be single-spaced with 1/2-inch margins and 10-point Arial type, and include the following sections:
1) **Proposed Theme Title**
2) **Keywords**
3) **Summary** (1/2 page maximum): Written in lay-person terms avoiding jargon

4) **Contact:** Name, Title, College/Department Affiliations, Email
5) **Organizing Committee** (1 page maximum): List the name, title(s), department(s), and relevant research interests of every member of your proposed organizing team.
6) **Program Description** (4 page maximum)
    a) **Theme**: Provide a description of the theme or focusing question of your proposed program. Indicate why this theme would be important for TDAI and the university to pursue.
    b) **Inclusive, Interdisciplinary Research Community-Building**: Describe your proposed activities and programs for your year-long theme, the timeframe and desired outcomes for each. Describe how your proposed program engages members of the TDAI, university and external communities.
    c) **Impact**: Describe the societal significance of your proposed topic, as well as the potential near-term and longer-term impacts. How will implementation of your proposed program help to elevate the stature of the Translational Data Analytics Institute?
7) **Outcomes and Metrics** – Indicate your expected outcomes and how you will measure success for the yearlong program. Be sure to provide number values for metrics. (1/2 page maximum)
8) **Budget** should not be included.

Submit your proposal to Cathie Smith (smith.4420@osu.edu) as a PDF by **Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm.**