

**Board Research Initiative  
Request for Proposals**

**Released – September 13, 2019**

**Improved measures for controlling blackhead disease in turkeys and chickens**

**Background** – Blackhead disease is an important disease in the commercial turkey and chicken industries. The disease is introduced to turkeys by transmission of the eggs of the cecal worm, *Heterakis gallinarum*, by contact with chickens or chicken litter. This worm acts as the intermediate host of the parasite, *Histomonas meleagridis*, causative agent of blackhead disease. The only chemotherapeutic agents available to prevent or treat blackhead disease have been withdrawn from the market. Effective vaccines to prevent blackhead are not available.

**Research Questions**

- What innovative methods can be developed to prevent or treat blackhead disease in turkeys and chickens?

**Areas of focus**

- Development of vaccines and vaccine strategies to prevent blackhead disease in turkeys and chickens.
- Identification of alternative chemotherapeutic agents to control blackhead disease in turkeys and chickens.
- Identification of potential insect vectors of cecal worms in turkeys and chickens.

**Proposal Submission**

Researchers should submit only a maximum two-page pre-proposal summary that describes the parts of the objectives they wish to address and what they propose to do. A title, the researcher's name, affiliation, and email address should be included in the pre-proposal. Details of procedures or specifics of the budget should not be included in the pre-proposal submission. Pre-proposals should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to Geraldine Dew at [gdew@uspoultry.org](mailto:gdew@uspoultry.org). **DEADLINE FOR PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 1, 2019.**

The outcome of the pre-proposal review will be one of three responses from USPOULTRY:

- Send a full research proposal for consideration.
- Please make specific modifications in what you are proposing and send a full proposal.
- Do not send a full research proposal.

Full proposals will follow established USPOULTRY guidelines as seen at [www.uspoultry.org](http://www.uspoultry.org). Funds can be used for graduate students, technicians, research supplies, and work and meeting travel. Funds cannot be used for professional (faculty or postdoc) salaries or equipment purchase. Up to 15% overhead is allowed. No budget, including overhead, may exceed \$125,000.