



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michelle Bjerkness, USWBSI Director of Operations, nfo@scabusa.org

USWBSI Seeks Novel Science and New PIs for Transformational Science Pre-Proposals

June 06, 2023 – The U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) is pleased to announce the call for [FY24 Request for Pre-Proposals](#) which again includes a call for proposals in the [Transformational Science \(TSCI\)](#) research category.

“We have a substantial research platform in place, with an incredibly engaged community of PIs from our core disciplines working on Fusarium Head Blight,” noted Ruth Dill-Macky, the USWBSI’s Researcher Co-Chair. “Building on this valuable network, we see so much potential to collaborate with researchers from new disciplines and leverage our funding for novel approaches to meet our mission.”

The overall goals of the TSCI are to attract the expertise of scientists that are not currently a part of the Initiative, recruit and explore novel ideas and research approaches, and develop integrated projects that leverage the strengths of multiple areas of the Initiative. Pre-Proposals for these 2-year projects should incorporate the following:

1. At least one of the PIs is a scientist new to the Initiative; and
2. The proposed work represents a novel approach to address FHB (all previously funded projects can be viewed in the [USWBSI Project Database](#)).

Pre-Proposals that include collaboration between scientists involved with two or more of the current research areas/coordinated projects are preferred.

“This is only the second round of funding of this category, and we are hoping for some novel approaches,” said Richard Magnusson, USWBSI Grower Co-Chair. “We hope that by offering the TSCI Research Category we can fund projects with a broader range of innovative concepts to reduce the impact of scab on wheat and barley.”

In addition to the Transformational Science category, for researchers interested in submitting a Pre-Proposal to one of the other research categories in the FY24 RFP, the first step is identifying which category your research fits in by using the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) and then, if applicable, submitting a Letter of Intent using the online submission process. Letters of Intent (necessary for some but not all research categories) are being accepted through June 28; visit the [USWBSI FY24 Request for Pre-Proposals](#) website for full details.

The USWBSI is a national multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research consortium whose goal is to develop effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight (scab), including the production of mycotoxins, for producers, processors and consumers of wheat and barley. The USWBSI’s more than \$8.6 million annual budget comes from Federal funds appropriated through the USDA-ARS.

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U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative Networking & Facilitation Office

Dept. of Plant Pathology, 495 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108
(517) 290-5023 | nfo@scabusa.org | <https://scabusa.org>