

**Board of Governors of the
Colorado State University System
Meeting Date: June 30, 2023
Action Item**

MATTER FOR ACTION:

Approval of the Colorado State University Plan of Finance for the Chiropteran Research Facility

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOVED, that the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System approves the Plan of Finance for the Chiropteran Research Facility.

EXPLANATION:

Presented by Brendan Hanlon, Vice President for University Operations.

Colorado State University is requesting approval of the plan of finance for the Chiropteran Research Facility. This project will construct an approximately 14,000 gsf stand-alone bat vivarium adjacent to the CVID building at Foothills Campus. The Board of Governors approved the program plan for this facility on February 3, 2022, and as described herein, the planned facility has remained the same, although there has been construction cost escalation and the estimated budget has increased.

The estimated budget is \$11.83M. An NIH Grant has been awarded for \$6.75M and University resources will provide the remaining \$5.08M.

Funding Sources

NIH Grant Funds - \$6,748,541
Research Building Revolving Fund - \$5,081,105

Once necessary approvals are in place it is estimated that the project will take approximately 3 years to complete. CSU anticipates a design-bid-build delivery method and occupancy is expected in Sept 2025.

A more detailed project description can be found in the attached Summary of the Program Plan, and the full program plan is posted at www.facilities.colostate.edu.

Chiropteran Research Facility

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SUMMARY OF PROGRAM PLAN FOR THE CHIROPTERAN RESEARCH FACILITY

This project will construct an approximately 14,000 gsf stand-alone bat vivarium adjacent to the CVID building at Foothills Campus. CVID currently houses one of the only captive breeding colonies of bats (Jamaican fruit bats, *Artibeus jamaicensis*) for use in infectious disease research. The Chiropteran Research Facility will expand the breeding colony to house Indian flying fox (*Pteropus medius*), house horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus affinis*) and future species of bats such as the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) or Seba's short-tailed bat (*Carollia perspicillata*).


Pathogens transmitted by bat vectors continue to burden the health of humans around the world. While these viruses are highly pathogenic in humans and other animals, the bats that host them do not experience meaningful pathology. Further, there is increasing evidence that many other human viruses may have originated in bats, including measles, mumps and hepatitis C viruses. While the study of bats as reservoir hosts for these zoonotic agents has intensified over the last 10 years, our understanding of viral tolerance in bat reservoirs remains largely unknown. Improving our understanding of viral tolerance in bats can improve our understanding and outcomes of humans infected with bat-origin zoonoses. However, there is a lack of facilities capable of maintaining them in the laboratory setting to conduct these critical studies. The goals of this proposal are to: 1) Construct a state-of-the-art bat vivarium with the necessary environmental and biosafety controls to promote successful breeding and rearing of bat for use as research models, and 2) Accommodate a growing research agenda and national need in emerging bat-borne and bat-associated diseases.

The estimated budget is \$11.83M. An NIH Grant has been awarded for \$6.75M and University resources will provide the remaining \$5.08M.

Once necessary approvals are in place it is estimated that the project will take approximately 3 years to complete. CSU anticipates a design-bid-build delivery method and occupancy is expected in Sept 2025.

X
Approved

Denied



Board Secretary
6/30/23

Date

Chiropteran Research Facility