



## Idea Award Request for Applications

### Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this RFA is to stimulate the development of high-quality, innovative cancer research projects that will move forward to extramurally funded grant awards. Idea Awards provide early funding support for high-risk, high-payoff research for which external grants are difficult to obtain. MCW Cancer Center (CC) leadership anticipates distributing awards of up to \$50,000 for one year without the option to renew.

### Priority Areas of Funding for the Current Funding Cycle

Cancer relevant research from all areas of science are invited to apply to this RFA. **However, collaborations between basic/translational science and population science researchers who propose to study topics related to understanding or addressing cancer disparities will be given priority.** Proposals that utilize MCW CC Shared Resources are encouraged.

### Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

#### *Eligibility*

- Proposed research must be cancer relevant.
- MCW Tenure track faculty members are eligible to apply.
- Research can take place, and expenditures incurred, at MCW, Versiti BRI, Children's Research Institute or the Zablocki VAMC.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek project advice and support from the appropriate Associate Director and/or Program Leader.

#### *Evaluation*

Each application will be assigned to internal and external reviewers who have substantial expertise in cancer research and in reviewing grants.

Review criteria include

- Standard NIH criteria (significance, innovation, approach and investigative team);
- Likelihood that preliminary results will lead to external peer-reviewed funding;
- Projects that promise to enhance collaborations between cancer outcomes disparities researchers and basic or translational scientists will be prioritized;
- Participation in CC programs (*e.g.*, attend program meetings, participate in grant review panels, participate in recurring seminars and symposia);
- A well thought out "Future Funding Plan" (see instructions) describing how funds will provide data that is critical to future extramural grant application(s);
- When appropriate, description of how the proposed research may ultimately produce IP (intellectual property, like patents).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult a biostatistician when developing the research design and methods of their proposals ([click here for biostatistician consult request](#)).

**Application Instructions - Please see the MCW Cancer Center website [here](#) for additional information and forms.**

**Application Format:** Use standard 11-point font, single space, and half-inch margins throughout the application. Consecutively number all pages.

- **Cover Page:** To initiate, please click [here](#). This will take you to the Faculty Collaboration Database to sign in so that certain fields can be auto populated. Include project title, investigators and affiliations.
- **Scientific Abstract:** Provide a summary of the project. (250-word limit).
- **Lay Abstract:** Provide a brief summary of the proposed research project in layman's terms. If funded, this abstract may be distributed to the funding source and can be used in written correspondence with donors and interested parties. (200-word limit).
- **Response to Reviewers:** (If applicable) Describe key changes that have been made in response to reviewer comments. (1-page limit).
- **Specific Aims:** State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the one-year project period. (1-page limit)
- **Research Strategy:**
  - a. Background-Significance-Innovation (1-page limit)
  - b. Approach (3-page limit)
- **Future Funding Plan:** Awardees are required to submit a timeline for a NCI R01 or equivalent cancer-relevant grant submission. State the agencies, mechanisms and timing of planned future grant applications that will utilize the preliminary data produced under this Idea Award. State how data from this application will be used to support extramural proposals. (200-word limit)
- **Budget:** Use budget template found on the Cancer Center webpage followed by a Budget Justification. Budget cap is \$50,000 direct costs. There are no indirect costs allowed. No faculty salaries, student tuition and fees, or equipment should be included. Faculty effort related to this award must be listed. Salary or stipend support for laboratory personnel, RAs, post-doctoral fellows, study coordinators, *etc.* may be included. Every budgeted item must be classified into a category (*e.g.*, personnel, supplies). Travel expenses will only be allowed when necessary to carry out the proposed research project. Any no-cost extensions will require review of the final report and prior approval by CC Leadership.
- **Literature Cited:** List only references pertinent to the proposed research. References do not count against the page limit.
- **NIH-format Biosketches:** Biosketches for all faculty investigators must be included. Personal statements must include the specific role of the team member. In addition to the standard NIH-format biosketch sections (which include Current and Recent Research Support), include an additional Pending Support section that lists all pending grant applications. Describe any overlap or relationship between the pending application and this Idea Award application. Give the expected notification date for each pending application.
- **Form B: Non-Supplanting Form.** Use separate forms for each principal and co-investigator.
- **Form D: Return on Investment.** Previous Cancer Center Pilot Grant recipients must complete.
- **Letters of Support:** Letters of support from the appropriate individuals, which may include your CC Research Program Leader, collaborator(s), and/or mentor (if pertinent).
- **Regulatory Approvals:** PIs are expected to obtain regulatory approvals [*e.g.*, IACUC and IRB] within three months of award decision. Please note that the funding cannot be released until required approvals have been obtained and uploaded in eBridge for any human and animal subject protocols
- **Junior Faculty:** Please include a mentoring plan with your application. (1-page limit).

## Timeline

Full applications are **due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2020**. Please email one PDF file of the application to Nicole Davis ([nmdavis@mcw.edu](mailto:nmdavis@mcw.edu)). After peer review and funding decisions are made mid February, notifications of award will be made; the start date will be dependent on the status of human and animal studies protocol approvals. Nicole will initiate and then work with approved PI's department administration to complete eBridge submission for selected proposals.

## Program Expectations

- Publications

- A final report is required upon project completion, including an outline of project results and grant applications submitted or planned for submission.
- R01 or equivalent grant submission within one year after pilot award period of execution.
- Awardees will be required to serve on pilot study sections for three years.