Team Science Award
Request for Applications

Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this RFA is to stimulate the development of high-quality, multi-investigator (minimum of three) program project grants that will move forward to extramurally funded grant awards. Projects with translational potential are encouraged, but not mandatory. Inter-programmatic and inter-institutional teams are also highly encouraged. MCW CC leadership anticipates distributing awards up to $150,000 per year for up to two years.

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 & Evaluation Criteria

Eligibility

- Proposed research must be cancer relevant.
- Applications must propose a team comprising at least three investigators/project leaders and projects supporting a unifying scientific theme.
- 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.
- The overall PI(s) must have a strong track record of peer-reviewed funding (active R01 grant or equivalent).
- Applicants are encouraged to seek project advice and support from the appropriate Associate Director and/or Program Leader.

Evaluation

Each full application will be assigned to internal and external reviewers who have substantial expertise in cancer research and in reviewing programmatic, center-level grants.

Review criteria include

- Standard NIH criteria (significance, innovation, approach and investigative team);
- Likelihood that preliminary results will lead to external peer-reviewed funding;
- Program project synergy (synergy, leadership, strength of the investigators, productivity, potential impact of the proposed research);
- Participation in CC programs (*e.g.,* attend program meetings, participate in grant review panels, participate in recurring seminars or 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, describe how the 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 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) Insert an additional document describing key changes that have been made in response to the reviewer comments. (1-page limit).
- **Overall Program Goals and Specific Aims:** If inter-institutional, explain why collaboration between the collaborating institution and MCW is important to achieve program goals and how it increases the likelihood of future extramural funding. (2-page limit).
- **Program-Related Publications** (does not count against page limits).
- **For Each Project:**
  - **Project Goals and Specific Aims:** State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the two-year project period (1-page limit)
  - **Research Strategy** (4-page limit)**:**
    a. Background-Significance-Innovation (1-page limit)
    b. Approach (3-page limit)
  - **Future Funding Plans:** Awardees are required to submit a timeline for a NCI P01, U54 or equivalent cancer-relevant grant submission. State how preliminary data from this project will be used to support this extramural proposal submission. State the funding agencies, mechanisms and timing of planned future grant applications that will utilize the preliminary data produced under this Team Science Award. (200-word limit)
  - **Literature Cited -** List only references pertinent to the proposed research. References do not count against the page limit.
- **Description of Potential Cores:** Include a description of how each core will support projects. (optional, 1-page limit for each core).
- **Budget:** Use budget template found on the Cancer Center webpage followed by a Budget Justification. Budget cap is $150,000 direct costs per year. No indirect costs are 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, patient care costs). Travel expenses will only be allowed when necessary to carry out the proposed research project. Any no-cost extensions will require review of the progress report and prior approval by CC Leadership.
- **Potential External Advisory Board (EAB) Members:** Include a list of member names. (An EAB is a group of experts in the field of the application who can guide the team as they execute this pilot award (and possibly be retained as members of the EAB for an externally funded future program project), providing advice and recommendations as to strategy and specific experiments and data that will maximize the likelihood of future center-level grant funding.)
- **NIH-format Biosketches:** Biosketches for all faculty team 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 Team Science 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 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 funding cannot be released until all applicable human subject and animal protocols have been approved and uploaded in eBridge.

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). Notifications of award will be made after peer review, mid February. 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
- Year 2 funding is contingent on submission of an annual progress report (month 11) showing satisfactory progress toward project goals.
- P01, MPI R01, or equivalent, center-level grant submission within one year after pilot award period of execution.
- Awardees will be required to serve on pilot study sections for three years.