Basic, Translational, Clinical and Population Science
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 projects. Idea Awards provide early funding support for high-risk, high-payoff research for which external grants are difficult to obtain.

Priority Areas of Funding for the Current Funding Cycle

Faculty members with cancer relevant research from all areas of science are invited to apply to this RFA. **Collaborations between basic/translational/clinical 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 faculty members are eligible to apply.
- Future external funding proposals leveraging the data from an Idea award must be submitted through MCW.
- Research can take place and expenditures incurred only at MCW, Children's Wisconsin, Children's Research Institute, Froedtert Hospital, Versiti BRI, or the Zablocki VAMC.

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, translational, clinical or population scientists will be prioritized;
- Investigator 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).
- Mentoring plan for early-career faculty.

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

Budget

$50,000 for one year without the option to renew.

Application Instructions
(Please see the MCW Cancer Center website here for additional information and forms.)

NOTE: *All required components of the application MUST be submitted to MCW Cancer Center Research Program staff by the application deadline. If components are missing at the submission deadline or do not adhere to the page limits listed in the RFA, investigators will be given 24 hours to respond. Otherwise, the application will be disqualified and will not undergo the formal review process.*

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

Please include the following:

- **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. After completion, a PDF of the Cover Sheet will be emailed to you. Combine (concatenate) the cover page produced with the remainder of your application for submission (see below).
- **Scientific Abstract:** Provide a summary of the project. (250-word limit)
- **Lay Abstract**: Provide a brief summary of the proposed research project in terms that people who do not have prior knowledge about the subject can understand. If funded, this abstract will 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) For previously submitted proposals, please include reviewer comments and describe key changes that have been made in response. (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 including relevant preliminary data (3-page limit)
- **Future Funding Plan** (**Mandatory**)**:** 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. *Extramural proposals that utilize the preliminary data produced under this award must be submitted through MCW*. (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 and cost shared. Salary or stipend support for laboratory personnel, RAs, postdoctoral fellows, study coordinators, *etc.* may be included. Every budgeted item must be classified into a category (*e.g.*, personnel, supplies). You are required to obtain a quote for Biostatistical services via iLab and reference the iLab quote # in the budget justification. 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 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, include a section on Current and Pending Research Support. Provide the expected notification date for each pending application and describe any overlap or relationship between each pending application and this application.

- **Form D: Return on Investment.** Previous Cancer Center Pilot Grant recipients must complete this form.
- **Letters of Support:** Include letters of support from the appropriate individuals, which may include your CC Research Program Leader, collaborator(s), and/or mentor (if pertinent).
- **Mentoring Plan:** Junior faculty please include a mentoring plan with your application. (1-page limit)
- **Regulatory Approvals:** PIs are expected to obtain regulatory approvals [*e.g.*, IACUC and IRB] within three months of award notification. 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.

Timeline

RFA release: 07/15/2024. An LOI indicating your intent to submit and briefly describing your proposal and team members (250-word limit) is due on or before 08/15/2024. **Applicants are highly encouraged to present their Specific Aims at the Cancer Research Forum on 08/22/2024.** Full applications are **due by 11:59pm on 10/01/2024**. Please email one PDF file of the application to MCWCCResearchPrograms@mcw.edu. Notifications of award will be made after peer review and Director's Council approval. The start date will be on or after 01/01/2025, dependent on the status of any required human and animal studies protocol approvals, with the understanding that it will not take longer than three months post award notice. Please contact MCWCCResearchPrograms@mcw.edu with any questions.

Program Expectations

- Publications
- A final progress 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 may be required to serve on CC pilot study sections for three years.