



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Polyethnic-1000: Advancing cancer genomics by studying ethnically diverse, underserved patient populations in New York.

PURPOSE:

The Polyethnic-1000 (P-1000) initiative, overseen by the Genome Center Cancer Group (GCCG) at the New York Genome Center (NYGC), has formed a coalition of over 15 New York regional hospitals and research centers to study cancer genomics in patients belonging to ethnic minority populations traditionally under-represented in cancer research. After demonstrating its ability to collect and analyze stored tissue samples in a retrospective manner, the coalition is also building capacity to conduct prospective studies, by documenting additional modalities that include patient recruitment with broad consent; integration of clinical data; expanded specimen collection (tumor tissue with matched normal sample); and data generation from molecular profiling, followed when indicated by clinical confirmation, with return of information about actionable mutations.

With this RFP, the GCCG and P-1000 are now soliciting applications from investigators at participating institutions in the P-1000 coalition to study how inherited and somatically acquired genetic variations affect the behavior of cancers occurring in ethnically diverse populations. These applications should describe plans to initiate or extend studies designed to answer specific questions about the roles of ethnicity in cancer causation, initiation, progression, prevention, or treatment.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY:

Investigators from institutions that belong to the P-1000 coalition are eligible if they possess an MD or a PhD degree in a relevant scientific field and demonstrate a commitment to collaborate with the P-1000 consortium.

Two types of award will be issued:

- a. **P-1000 Start-Up or Supplement (SUS) Awards:** Two-year SUS awards for pilot projects (intended to determine feasibility or validate hypotheses on small cohorts) or for supplements (to expand existing funds for on-going projects that conform to the objectives of P-1000). Up to \$200,000, including the value of NYGC-based services, will be offered to successful applicants.
- b. **P-1000 Major Awards:** Two-year awards to undertake research projects based on preliminary findings, with the aim of reaching major conclusions. Successful applicants will receive up to \$500,000, including the value of NYGC-based services.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. **Letter of Intent:** Letters of Intent to apply for either of these awards must be submitted to polyethnic1000@nygenome.org by January 31, 2020. Please submit proposals as a single PDF. Letters of Intent must be no longer than five pages and include:
 - a. Type of award and justification;
 - b. Brief summary of the proposed project that provides a justification for the research;
 - c. Summary of the research plan, including the methods for collecting, generating, and interpreting data (no more than two pages); and

d. List of lead investigator(s), key personnel, and their institutions.

2. **Full Application:** For selected investigators, full application must be submitted to polyethnic1000@nygenome.org by **April 6, 2020**. Please submit proposals as a single PDF. The application must include:

- a. Type of award and justification for the choice of type (*half page maximum*);
- b. Summary of the proposed project with a justification for the research plan. The summary must describe primary and secondary research aims; unpublished data, published work, and ideas that support the proposal; and an assessment of the likely impact on our understanding or control of cancer in under-represented patient populations (*two pages maximum*);
- c. An experimental strategy that describes the methods for collecting, generating, and interpreting data. This section must include descriptions of and justifications for the type of biospecimens; proposed sequencing technologies; clinical data elements; and types of data analysis (*five pages maximum*);
- d. NIH-style biosketches for all significant personnel;
- e. Description of relevant facilities and existing resources available for the project, including the institutions that will serve as sources of patients from whom samples will be obtained (*one page maximum*);
- f. Budget proposal that outlines up to two years of support, with brief justifications for each expense category and the allocation of costs between cash and the services to be provided by the NYGC (*two pages maximum*). *Budget will be subject to negotiation between the investigator teams and the NYGC.*

REVIEW CRITERIA:

All LOIs will be reviewed by the Steering Committee of P-1000 and Executive Committee of the GCCG, according to the following criteria:

- a. The quality and feasibility of the scientific proposal and its compatibility with the goals of P-1000;
- b. The track records of the principal investigators;
- c. The demonstrated commitment to collaborative work with the P-1000 consortium.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

- Only direct costs will be supported.
- The number of awards will be determined by the funds available, the results of the review of applications, and the budgetary recommendations.
- Allowed expenses: research supplies, technical assistance (including salary support for laboratory personnel), publication costs.
- Disallowed: salary support for administrative personnel, office equipment and supplies, laboratory equipment, computers, travel.
- Renewal for the second year will be contingent on evidence of significant progress during the first year of funding.

Any questions regarding this solicitation should be directed to polyethnic1000@nygenome.org.

KEY DATES:

- Letters of Intent due: January 31, 2020.
- Notifications of decisions to request a full application: February 17, 2020.
- Full Applications due: April 6, 2020.
- Commencement of awards: June 15, 2020