

Pilot Funding to Stimulate Cancer Research at NC State

The goal of this targeted RFA is to support and stimulate cancer-related projects at North Carolina State University that have the potential to become collaborations between members of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and faculty at North Carolina State University that could be competitive for larger awards. These \$50,000 one- or two-year pilots are intended to stimulate basic, public health, or translational research with an impact on human cancer. Investigators working at NCSU with an interest in cancer research in the areas of engineering, technology development, computation, cancer biology, veterinary medicine and/or mathematical or advanced statistical modeling are invited to apply.

Our goal is to fertilize interactions and fuel new collaborations that aim to develop novel approaches and strategies for the field of cancer. For this initial round of applications, a set-aside would fund three or four grants, depending on the review for scientific promise, innovation, and excellence. Applications submitted to this RFA will be reviewed a joint committee made up of faculty from both institutions.

We seek innovative proposals from investigators from NC State working on the generation of either tools or approaches that may be used in cancer biology, cancer prevention and early detection, or cancer treatment/diagnostics.

CRITERIA

Proposals will be judged by the following criteria:

- Scientific merit;
- Relevance to award category (basic, clinical/translational, or population sciences);
- Qualifications, experience, and productivity of the applicant;
- Project feasibility given facilities, budget, time, and other resources available;
- Potential for future collaborative work and funding.

REVIEW

Review will be chaired by a UNC LCCC Associate Director and be composed of faculty from UNC Lineberger and other institutions whose faculty have submitted applications. Applications will be assigned two or three reviewers, who will score applications according to the criteria above, using the NIH scale of 1-9 (best – worst).

RESTRICTIONS

A. Projects must be completed in the designated period of the grant proposal. Grants are for one or two years. Clinical applicants or others with time consuming protocol requirements may apply for change in start/end dates. No-cost extensions must be formally requested.

B. Funds may be budgeted for any of the standard categories and for purposes deemed necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project. However, restrictions and additional scrutiny apply:

1. **Faculty salary**-Salary support of faculty as principal investigators or co-investigator are not allowed. Requests for non-tenure track faculty who direct labs or projects and requests for consulting biostatistics faculty support (for data analysis) can be considered; however, requests for this kind of support should be appropriate for the level of effort required. Salary, tuition, and other funds for non-faculty named on the budget are allowed in amounts appropriate for the level of effort. Requests for F&A are not allowed.
2. **Travel**-Requests for travel support should be limited to funds directly related to project performance. Travel to conferences and meetings will be permitted. International travel is also permitted.
3. **Equipment**-Requests for equipment should be limited to funds directly related to project performance. For example, a laptop for a research assistant to use in clinic to collect data would be appropriate.

Unused funds will revert to the supporting funding source. All proposed expenses must conform to the general policies of the University. Projects that use the UNC Lineberger Biostatistics Shared Facility, the Tissue Procurement Core, and/or other core resources are encouraged to consult with those cores prior to submission.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDEES

A. All **awarded** projects that involve animals or human subjects must be reviewed and approved in accordance with the University's general assurances and HIPAA prior to funding. Reviews and approvals may be "Just in

Time” and are not required for registration/application. Projects involving human subjects must be submitted to an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Intervention studies and clinical protocols must be reviewed and approved by the UNC Lineberger Protocol Review Committee. All investigators and all persons named on the budget page must have certification of training in the protection of human subjects. Appropriate animal forms must also be filed and approved.

B. A summary progress report shall be submitted two months after the end date of support. The summary progress report should give a financial accounting of funds used for the project, and reference all research products generated, including abstracts submitted/published, peer-reviewed articles submitted/published, grant applications submitted/funded, and potential/actual intellectual property (reports of invention, etc.).

Principal investigators will provide further updates on publications, grants, and patents when asked.

Where appropriate, progress reports should identify the counties and populations involved or affected. For example, for an intervention for adults that works through African-American churches in six NC counties, the report should acknowledge the population (African Americans) and name the six counties included in the study.

C. All manuscripts, abstracts, posters, and presentations should acknowledge support from the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Developmental Funds, e.g.: *This project was funded [in part] by a grant from the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.*

D. Awards co-funded by other sources will also adhere to reporting requirements of those programs.

E. Faculty awardees may be asked to serve on future review committees.

APPLICATION FORMAT (in this order)

Proposals must include in ONE PDF:

- A **Title Page** that includes: **title** of the proposal, the **PI's** name, primary appointment, faculty rank, and contact information, the name, title and contact information of faculty sponsor, if applicable; **Tier and category** (basic, clinical/translational or population science) of the proposal; **total Budget** requested. Registering online **does not** automatically create this title page: please include in your PDF.
- **Scientific Abstract:** The abstract summary of the proposal for use by review committee members and UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center (250-word maximum).
- **Budget:** Use **PHS 398 Form Page 4** (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.docx>).
- **Budget Justification:** The Budget Justification should include sufficient detail for reviewers to assess whether appropriate resources have been requested (no page limit).
- **Specific Aims and Research Plan:** Specific Aims: one-page limit. Research Plan: Three-page limit, including: Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Include clear evidence of how the proposal meets the review criteria. Page limit includes tables and figures. References do not count towards the page limit; single spacing, font no smaller than Arial 11, and half-inch margins. You may include an appendix, but reviewers are not required to read beyond the page limit. Letters of support may be beyond the page limit. All should be in one PDF.
- **Proposal Timeline**
- **Human and Animal Subjects:** Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) approval is not required prior to submission. Briefly describe any human and/or animal subject issues. If human subjects will be involved in the research, provide a description of their involvement and characteristics, specific risks to subjects who participate, and protection against those risks. Describe the sources of materials that will be obtained from human subjects as part of their study participation. Provide assurance that the project will be reviewed and approved by the UNC IRB and comply with HIPAA. If vertebrate animals are to be used, describe the proposed use of the animals in the work outlined and procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain and injury will be limited.
- **NIH Biosketches** for the key members of the research team.

SUBMISSION

Find more information/ upload at <http://unclineberger.org/research/developmental-funding-opportunities>

Questions? amenkens@email.unc.edu