



AT THE FOREFRONT

UChicago Medicine

Comprehensive Cancer Center

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT 2020 PROGRAM PILOT PROJECT GRANTS

SUMMARY:

This RFA describes the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center's (UCCCC) annual Program-Specific Pilot Project Grant program. Projects will be awarded in the amount of \$50,000 each for one year. We anticipate funding one application in each Program as well as two additional projects focusing on imaging, one in the Clinical Experimental Therapeutics Program, and the other in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program. **Note that investigators may submit only one proposal each, and PIs must be Comprehensive Cancer Center members.**

This support may be used for pilot projects or feasibility studies in basic, clinical, translational, cancer control, prevention, or population sciences research. These pilot projects must be in preparation for the development of an application for independent peer-reviewed support. Translational, interdisciplinary, and intra and inter-programmatic collaborative projects that focus on the following priority areas are strongly encouraged.

UPDATED Submission deadline: **Monday April 6, 2020**

Award period: **May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 (dates are approximate)**

PRIORITY AREAS:

UCCCC Program leaders have indicated priority areas based on the strategic goals of their programs, however, all applications addressing relevant program themes are encouraged. Note that applications will be generally assigned to the Program in which the PI belongs.

Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer Program

Program Leaders: Kay Macleod, PhD; Barbara Kee, PhD

Themes: 1) Epigenetics of cancer and tumor-specific gene expression; 2) Mechanisms of altered cell growth (e.g., metabolism); and 3) Altered tumor microenvironment and metastasis

Priorities:

- Translational research projects
- Collaborative projects with investigators from other UCCCC Programs

Immunology and Cancer Program

Program Leader: Tom Gajewski, MD, PhD; Pete Savage, PhD

Themes: 1) Innate immunity, lymphocyte activation and peripheral inflammation/regulation of tolerance; 2) Preclinical models of anti-tumor immunity; and 3) Human cancer immunology and immunotherapy

Priorities:

- Basic immunology concepts translated to the tumor context (e.g., innate immunity, T cell biology, B cell biology)
- Mechanisms of immunotherapy efficacy, resistance, and toxicity
- Biomarkers and new technologies applied to anti-tumor immunity and immunotherapy success/failure
- Human immunology
- Collaborative projects between UCCCC members

Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics Program

Program Leaders: Eileen Dolan, PhD; Russell Szmulewitz, MD; Aytekin Oto, MD

Themes: 1) Target identification; 2) Biomarkers; and 3) Target interrogation

Priorities:

- Collaborative studies in hematologic malignancies
- Imaging-focused projects, including image-guided therapy and radiotracer/biomarker studies
- Pharmacogenomics-related projects
- Biomarker studies
- Research relevant to the Latino population
- Use of Genomic Data Commons for research

Cancer Prevention and Control: Program Leaders: Brandon Pierce, PhD; Tara Henderson, MD; Greg Karczmar, PhD

Themes: 1) Risk and prevention; and 2) Detection and survivorship

Priorities:

- Collaborative studies, particularly interventional studies, on modifiable behavioral risk factors and comorbidities (such as obesity) in cancer risk, development, recurrence, or survivorship
- Cancer epidemiology, carcinogenesis, and early detection research (including imaging and biomarkers)
- Cancer disparities research (especially in Latino, but also African American or other minority populations)
- Projects using the COMPASS (Chicago Multiethnic Prevention and Surveillance Study) cohort and other rich institutional other population research data sources
- Imaging-focused projects, including advances in cancer detection and screening

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must be full UCCCC members.
- Associate Members may be eligible but must first submit a short LOI by Monday, February 17, 2020, which will be reviewed by the UCCCC Senior Leadership. Send by email to Rita Spiroff (rspiroff@bsd.uchicago.edu).

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications are limited to no more than 3 single-spaced typed pages (Sections A-G, and excluding Other Support for Project and NIH Supporting Documents) and must include:

- A. Specific aims
- B. Background and rationale
- C. Research plan
- D. Cancer relevance and fit with themes and priorities of the UCCCC Program
- E. Description of translational components (if applicable)
- F. List of collaborators and description of their roles on the project
- G. Future directions, including grant submissions based on this Pilot Project Grant
- H. NIH PHS 398 Supporting Documents:
 - a. Budget and budget justification, prepared according to PHS 398 budget page); PI or co-investigator support is not allowed; this is an internal award – there are NO indirect costs
 - b. Biographical Sketch (including Other Support)

Upload your proposal on the UCCCC application portal:

1. Go to: <http://administration.uccrc.org/>
2. Click on “Submit Projects”
3. Enter your name and password (BSDAD)
4. Click on “Submit a new project” and follow the directions
5. **Note: Combine all pieces of the application (budget, justification, biosketch, proposal – sections A-I) into ONE PDF before you upload it.**

REVIEW PROCESS:

Proposals will be reviewed by the UCCCC Standing Review Committee, consisting of UCCCC Senior Leaders, other UCCCC investigators, and Program Leaders. The review will take into consideration the following criteria:

- Scientific merit
- Inter- or intraprogrammatic collaboration
- Translational components
- Likelihood of leading to peer-reviewed funding
- “Fit” with the thematic priorities of the UCCCC Research Program

PROGRESS REPORTS:

Progress reports (typically one page), summarizing research to date and efforts to secure external funding, will be requested at the end of the funding period. Any publications resulting from this project must acknowledge the support of the UCCCC and list the Cancer Center Support Grant number (P30 CA014599).

QUESTIONS:

For administrative questions, please contact Rita Spiroff at rspiroff@bsd.uchicago.edu or 2-6180. For all other inquiries, contact Tiha Long, PhD, at tlong2@bsd.uchicago.edu or 5-5972.



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**PROGRAM PILOT PROJECT GRANT
APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

Proposal Title	
Principal Investigator (PI)	
UCCCC Research Program to which PI belongs	<input type="checkbox"/> Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer (MMC) Program <input type="checkbox"/> Immunology and Cancer (IC) Program <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics (CET) Program <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC) Program
Collaborators/Co-Is	
Research Proposal (limited to 3 single-spaced pages)	A. Specific Aims
	B. Background and Rationale
	C. Research Plan/Methods
	D. Cancer Relevance and Programmatic Fit
	E. Translational Components
	F. Collaborators and Their Roles
	G. Future Directions
Overlap (indicate whether this project has been submitted and/or funded previously)	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding (e.g., CTSA) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> External Funding (e.g., foundations) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Support will serve as bridge funding for ended grant
NIH PHS Supporting Documents	H. Budget
	I. Budget Justification
	J. Biographical Sketches for PI/Co-I (with Other Support)