Request for Applications: Multi-PI Basic Science Synergy Research Grants

Through the generous support of the H Foundation, members of the Basic Sciences Research Division of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University are invited to apply for the 2016 Multi-PI Basic Science Synergy Grants.

The goal of this initiative is to support investigators in the Basic Science Programs (Cancer Epigenetics and Nuclear Dynamics; Tumor Environment and Metastasis; Membranes, Organelles, and Metabolism; Cancer and Physical Sciences) to establish working groups towards submission of applications for investigator-initiated program project (P01) grants.

Proposals may address any of the broad areas of cancer research encompassed by the Basic Science programs. Each application must consist of at least three projects directed by Robert H Lurie Comprehensive Cancer center members, at least two of whom should have membership in a Basic Science Program. Projects directed by investigators outside the Center are allowable (e.g. as a fourth project) as long as there is a core group of at least three members of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. Funding will be only provided to Lurie Cancer Center PIs, but outside projects will be considered in the overall scientific assessment of the programs. The projects must share a common central theme, focus, and/or overall objective and support the mission of the Basic Science programs (http://cancer.northwestern.edu/research/research_programs/basic_sciences/index.cfm).

An application includes the following components, explained in more detail below:

- ≤3 page description of the program, individual projects/cores, benchmarks for success.
- Proposed budget from 50-100K (1-2 years) with budget justification explaining how the monies would be distributed among the participating PIs and Core facilities.
- Biosketches for each investigator.
- Documentation that a Program Officer at the supporting institute has been contacted and confirmation that a PO with proposed focus would be entertained for funding (for P01 applications).

The three-page description should include a ½ - 1 page section that describes the overall objective of the program, how the individual projects benefit from the program (i.e. how the whole is greater than the sum of its parts), and a plan for project integration and communication among PIs. A description of each proposed project and any new shared
resources that would be supported should also be included, along with anticipated use of existing cancer center-supported Core facilities. Finally, a section describing a timeline and benchmarks for success should be included, describing joint publications that are anticipated as a result of H Foundation Funding.

An important aspect of the application is evidence of communication with a Program Officer of the supporting institute, in order to provide assurance that a program is part of the mission of a particular institute. In conversations with program staff, potential PO1 PIs are encouraged to identify research directions of special interest to the individual institute divisions, as such research initiatives are more likely to be favorably considered. A link to NCI’s PO1 RFA is attached, but we encourage applications that would be supported by PO1 mechanisms from any institute, as long as the projects fit into the missions of the Basic Science programs.

A second year of funding will be considered based on progress/benchmarks achieved during the first year of funding, with particular attention paid to groups demonstrating evidence of joint manuscripts/publications. A clear path and timeline to submission to the NIH will be required. Future additional bridge funds to support gap funding following submission of the project will be entertained.

To be considered, basic science faculty should send applications to Benette Philips, Scientific Program Director at the Lurie Cancer Center, email: schallma@northwestern.edu. For questions and further information please contact Benette Philips.

The deadline for applications is March 28, 2016.

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