Objective

The objective of the Minnesota Cancer Centers Partnership Award is to enhance research and collaboration between the Masonic Cancer Center and Mayo Clinic Cancer Center by leveraging our combined strengths to create synergy. The Cancer Centers are especially interested in applications that have the potential to impact our understanding of mechanisms of cancer development or progression, in research that takes a clinical observation to the laboratory to study novel cancer mechanisms, or in research leading to novel approaches in cancer diagnosis, prevention or treatment.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

• A minimum of two co-investigators (each with a faculty appointment) are required, one who must be a Masonic Cancer Center member and one who must be a Mayo Clinic Cancer Center member.

• The primary criteria for funding will be 1) the quality of the research approach, 2) a hypothesis-driven or hypothesis-generating project that has a specific translational objective, 3) the extent to which the team members contribute to a multi-disciplinary approach, 4) the potential for future outside funding to sustain or further develop the translational objective.

• Examples of projects that could be proposed:
  o Funds to examine new molecular or genetic mechanisms that drive cancer
  o Funds to support biomarker analysis for a specific research or clinical objective
  o Funds to support pilot research for a basic discovery or translational grant application
  o Funds to utilize a human biospecimen collection for a specific research objective
  o Funds to test a new therapeutic approach

• The funds must be designated for the direct support of research. In general, funds should be used for supplies and support of research personnel (such as graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, or technicians). Funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries. Only equipment purchases that are directly required for the research are appropriate. No indirect costs should be included in the budget.

• All applicants are required to have proper approvals (IRB/IACUC/IBC) before research may begin. Applicants are highly encouraged to apply for proper approvals at or prior to the time of submission. This will ensure that the study is approved by the start date of the award.

Mechanism Funding Information

Applications with budgets of up to $100,000 for a two-year term will be considered. Costs will be funded on a 50/50 basis between the two cancer centers. Funds will not cross institutions; each institution will fund its co-investigator’s costs internally. One award will be made.
Intellectual Property

If any new IP is created, the two institutions will work together to determine the extent of shared ownership.

Application Process

- Application format should follow NIH PHS 398 format whenever possible.
  - Font size - at least 11 pt. Arial preferred.
- The proposal should contain the following information:
  - Cover Sheet (one page maximum)
    - Title, abstract, investigators, institution affiliation
  - Research Plan, single-spaced (three page maximum)
    - Specific Aims
    - Research Strategy (Translational Significance, Innovation, Approach)
      - Explanation of how proposed study will impact CCSG
      - Should not include preprints, reprints, or other forms of freestanding preliminary data as appendices
  - References (no page limit)
  - Biosketches for all key personnel - follow current NIH format (5 pages per bio sketch)
  - Current & pending support for all key personnel - follow NIH format, include federal and non-federal support
  - Detailed budget and justification, NIH format, project period: 11/1/17 - 10/31/19
    - Research personnel (e.g. grad students, lab staff, technicians). No faculty salary allowed.
    - Research supplies
    - Core service expenses (e.g. tissue procurement, flow cytometry)
    - Small equipment (less than $10,000)
    - Animal costs
    - No indirect costs (internal award)

Review Process

The applications will be reviewed by Masonic Cancer Center and Mayo Clinic Cancer Center senior leadership.

Applicants will be notified of the review outcome by late October, 2017. The award will be made for two years with an anticipated activation date of November 1, 2017.
Reporting Requirements

Principal investigators of funded projects will be required to provide annual and final reports that include accounting of all funds expended to date and progress towards milestones. Reports are to be submitted to the Mechanism Leads and the Funding Initiatives Manager. It is expected that all funds will be expended by October 31, 2019, with extensions being considered only in exceptional cases and requiring the approval of the Mechanism Leads.

Masonic Cancer Center and Mayo Clinic Cancer Center communications staff may reach out to awardees in the process of crafting communications (publications, website, flyers, etc.) for external audiences.

During a period of up to 7 years following the end of the pilot award, if any grants or publications are obtained as a result of this pilot funding, awardees are required to submit this information to the Funding Initiatives Manager.

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<th>Key Dates</th>
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<td>July 31, 2017</td>
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Grant Program Contacts

All questions related to the application process, requirements, or eligibility should be directed to:

Susan Fautsch, Funding Initiatives Manager
612-625-6238
mccgrant@umn.edu

Any questions regarding the applicability of research should be directed to the Mechanism Leads:

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