Masonic Cancer Center Pre-R01 Pilot Grants
Request for Applications
Fall 2017

The Masonic Cancer Center is soliciting applications for Pre-R01 Pilot Grants. The grants will be awarded through a competitive peer review process. It is anticipated that 2 to 4 projects will be funded for up to $100,000 each in the current cycle. These grants are intended to support new research ideas that address the MCC Scientific Priorities for Growth. Funding will be awarded for new R01 projects. Applicants are encouraged to contact MCC’s Research Development team to help seek funding opportunities for bridge funding or other continuing research support. Awardees are required to apply for federal funding (R01 or comparable) within one year of the award.

DEADLINES AT A GLANCE
• Issue RFA and open for Concept Proposals: August 14, 2017, 8:00am
• Concept Proposals due: September 18, 2017, 5:00pm
• Program Nominees notified to submit Complete Application: September 29, 2017
• Complete Applications due: October 27, 2017, 5:00pm
• Award Notification: early December
• Award Period: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Summary of Award Terms
• The maximum award will be $100,000 for a one year project. The funds should be designated for the direct support of research. In general, funds should be used for:
  • Lab supplies and reagents
  • Support of research personnel (research associates, postdocs, graduate students or technicians)
  • Small equipment (less than $10,000), and fee for service use of shared resources (e.g., Genome Engineering, Translational Cell Therapy, Mass Spectrometry, etc.).
  • Support of faculty salaries up to a combined total of 10% effort or $20,000, whichever is lower.
• Funds may not be used for administrative assistant salaries, service contracts, travel to scientific meetings, and payments or reimbursements for patient care.
• Concept proposals may reference planned collaboration(s) with other institution(s), however awarded funds may not be transferred to these institutions.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria
• Applicants must be Masonic Cancer Center members with faculty appointments at the University of Minnesota.
• Application PI must be a member of the respective program to which he/she is submitting a concept proposal. For information about becoming a member, see MCC Become a Member.
• Applications must have a cancer or cancer-related theme.
• Applications must address one of the MCC Scientific Priorities for Growth:

  1) Expand recent discoveries in immunotherapy and cellular therapeutics to include solid tumors.
  2) Enhance functional genomics strategies to further our understanding of cancer and develop new therapeutic avenues.
  3) Translate new chemoprevention agents into clinical trials for populations at increased risk for cancer including cancer survivors.
  4) Use biomarkers to individualize cancer prevention and personalize treatment.
  5) Establish a new Minnesota-based cohort that includes the collection of biospecimens for investigation of genetics, epigenetics, microbiome, and immunity associated with cancer.
  6) Develop effective methods to disseminate evidence-based cancer prevention and treatment strategies to vulnerable populations with disproportionate cancer burden in MN.

• The primary criteria for funding will be innovation, the quality of the research approach, and the potential to apply for outside funding to sustain or further develop the research project.
• Proposed research must be hypothesis-driven and have the clear goal of using the award as a springboard to obtaining a new R01 (or equivalent) from federal sources
• The project is not eligible if any of the following conditions apply:
  • the project has been funded by a prior or current R01
  • the project has been submitted for an R01 and notification is pending
  • the project is part of an R01 renewal
• You may apply if this project has been submitted for an R01 and not funded. If so, attach the comments with the application, and include how you propose to change the project to address the comments so as to improve and resubmit. (not part of the project 2 page limit)

Applying for Multiple Awards
Applicants may submit multiple concept proposals to their Program for consideration. There is no limit to the number of applications on which a faculty member would participate as a collaborator.

Concept Proposal Application Process
Concept Proposals include the following information:
• Principal Investigator name and contact information
• PI’s MCC Research Program (look up membership affiliation here)
• Collaborators
• Working Title
• Abstract
• Not included in 1 page limit: Other Support (Active & Pending) of Principal Investigator(s)

Concept Proposals due Monday, September 18, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

Submit an MCC PreR01 Concept Proposal Fall 2017

Concept Proposal Review Process

Program Nominations
Each MCC Program has an internally-selected committee that will review concept proposals submitted by their members. Each Program will select up to 2 proposals to submit a complete application. Nominees will be sent a link to submit an application online.

Full Application Instructions
Complete applications must meet the content requirements outlined below.

• Cover Page including demographic info of PI applicant/Co-PI, department affiliations, signatures of applicants.
• Lay abstract/Synopsis (2-3 sentences)
• Research Plan – Specific Aims, Strategy, Milestones (2 page maximum)
• Budget
• Budget justification
• Attestation of project’s other support (if any)
• NIH Biosketches of PI and Co-Is
• Letter(s) of Support from collaborators

(Note: PRFs will only be required at time of award)

Full Proposal Review Process

MCC Internal Grants Study Section
The MCC Internal Grants Study Section is comprised of MCC Program Representatives, prior MCC Internal Grant Awardees, Community Advisory board members and other Ad Hoc members. The Study Section will review complete applications and select the top 3-4 applications for recommendation to MCC Senior Leadership.
MCC Senior Leadership

MCC Senior Leadership (Director, Deputy Director and Associate Directors) will determine the final awards and funding amounts.

Award and Reporting Requirements

Approvals

All awardees are expected to have proper approvals (CPRC/IRB/IACUC/IBC) before award date of January 1, 2018. It is the responsibility of the PIs and their departments to verify approvals are in place before work on the project begins.

Reporting

Principal investigators of funded projects will be required to provide mid-year and final reports both including accounting of all funds expended to date and progress towards milestones. It is expected that all funds will be expended by December 31, 2018, with extensions being considered only in exceptional cases and requiring the approval of the MCC Senior Leadership. Reports are to be submitted to the MCC Director, program leader and Internal Grants Program Coordinator.

External Grant Application

Awardees are expected to submit an application for external funding (R01 or comparable) within 1 year following the end of the grant period. Failure to apply for external funding within this time frame, they will be in violation of their award terms and this may affect future ability to receive a MCC Internal Grant. Submit grant application information to the Internal Grants Program Coordinator.

MCC Internal Grants Study Section

Awardees are required to serve as MCC Internal Grants Study Section reviewers for a 3 year term effective upon receipt of their award.

Follow-up

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 Internal Grants Program Coordinator at the Masonic Cancer Center.

Contact

All questions about the application process, requirements, or eligibility should be directed to:
Susan Fautsch, Internal Grants Program Coordinator
612-625-6238
mccgrant@umn.edu