Request for Pilot and Exploratory Study Proposals from the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Program at the University of Florida Health Cancer Center focused on any of the thematic areas below:

Cancer Etiology/Discovery; Primary/Secondary Prevention; Treatment and Survivorship

Release Date: March 19, 2021
Letter of Intent due May 10, 2021
Information Workshop on April 1st, 2021, 9am-11am, via Zoom
Meeting URL: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98983895886?pwd=S1JUMkZBZUdmYjFYRXFjdW9LOGNT09
Meeting ID: 989 8389 5886
Passcode: 357989

Full Application RFA due June 21, 2021

The UFHCC’s Cancer Control and Population Sciences (CCPS) Program is seeking innovative, interdisciplinary Pilot and Exploratory Studies (PES) applications, which address any of the CCPS’s aforementioned themes. Successful applications should collect pilot data that will lead to extramural research grants and/or career development awards. Examples of proposals consistent with this opportunity include (but are not limited to) support for:

• Planning/preparatory activities necessary for applying to collaborative, cooperative, or large-scale translational extramural research initiatives (e.g., biospecimens, cohorts, clinical trials, community engagements; P- and U-series grants), particularly those relevant to UFHCC’s catchment area and to enhance our capacity for training (K-, R-, and T-series grants).

• Laboratory experiments and other primary and secondary data collection efforts (especially those involving population science-focused shared resources) necessary to assist the program member(s) to successfully compete for extramural grant funding.

Who should apply? What types of projects are funded? What are the evaluation criteria?
Interdisciplinary research studies are encouraged and they may originate from investigators at any College within the University of Florida, and can include collaborations with other institutions. PES may be categorized as standard PES or small PES based on their budgets (described below). These studies may be led by early-stage or senior investigators. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. Significance, methodological approach, scientific merit and innovation
2. Potential to result in subsequent larger NIH funded projects. A paragraph is required to describe the aims of the subsequent project and to outline how the PES will provide data that are needed for the major grant.
3. Multidisciplinary Investigative Team
4. Environment and use of UFHCC Shared Resources
5. Budget and timeline appropriateness
6. Early-Stage Investigator Involvement and level of mentoring offered to Early-Stage Investigators

What are the budgetary allowances?

1. Projects are generally $50,000/year in direct costs only. With justification, projects that span two years with up to $50,000/year will be considered, however it is the expectation that all funds will be expended within each award year with no carryover of funds.
2. Priority will be given to applications that are completed within a shorter timeline. Therefore, budget and timeline appropriateness are a key basis for evaluation of the application.
3. Smaller PESs are allowed with a budget of < $10,000 per year for one year. Awards levels are contingent
upon the type of project proposed, availability of funds and approval by the UFHCC Executive Committee.

ALLOWABLE COSTS
1. Only direct costs that support the advancement of the Specific Aims are allowed.
2. Funds awarded may not be used for indirect costs.
3. Awardees must comply with the broad policies governing Cost Accounting Standards.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO DIRECT COSTS
1. Postdoctoral fellow, staff scientists, and staff salaries and graduate student stipends are allowed
2. Principal Investigator and key personnel salaries are not permitted.
3. Supplies required for the project are allowed. Please indicate nature of supplies and justification.
4. Travel is not permitted.
5. No equipment over $2000.
6. Special equipment such computers must be justified as required specifically and only for the PES.
7. General purpose office equipment is not allowed.
8. Food is not allowed, except for research purposes for research study participants.

Will support from other entities enhance the potential for funding?
Leveraging funding from this award by combining resources from other entities is encouraged but not required.

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When will applicants receive notification of award?
Notification of award is expected by September 2021 and funds will be distributed in the Fall of 2021. The distribution of awards is contingent upon approval of the project from the local Institutional Review Board (IRB). Applicants must ensure and/or include in their timeline the IRB submission process. Facilitation of the IRB process is encouraged by speaking directly with Dr. Iafrate regarding a specific application.

What is the application process?
LETTER OF INTENT
A letter of intent to submit an application is due by May 10, 2021. The following items should be included in the letter:
1. Your name, title, email, department and college
2. Relevance to the CCPS themes described in this RFA
3. List of UFHCC shared resources you will utilize for your project
4. Short summary, specific aims and research plan

Submit letter of intent by email to dorciuf@ufl.edu, by 5PM on the due date.
You will receive application instructions if your letter of intent is accepted for this RFA.

PUBLICATIONS
Dissemination of the results developed under this award are encouraged to be made publicly available and published in scholarly journals. All publications shall acknowledge that “Support was provided by the University of Florida Health Cancer Center” and must be in PMCID compliance.

For additional information or clarification, please contact Dorci Nance for guidance in developing relevant project proposals. e-mail: dorciuf@ufl.edu