



REQUEST FOR PILOT AND EXPLORATORY STUDY PROPOSALS

Mechanisms of Oncogenesis (MOO) Research Program

Release Date: Monday, September 27, 2021
Letter of Intent Due (Requested): Friday, October 15, 2021 by 5:00 pm
Full Application Due: Friday, October 29, 2021 by 5:00 pm

Background & Purpose

We are pleased to announce a new pilot and exploratory study (PES) funding opportunity to advance novel, meritorious research among Cancer Center members in the MOO Research Program. The MOO pilot awards are aimed to provide developmental support for basic or translational research projects to generate preliminary data that allow new applications for federal or other peer-reviewed extramural funding. Priority will be given to novel, meritorious projects that address the top cancers in our catchment area and beyond, and that leverage strengths of our research community. Proposals must have a MOO member as either lead PI or Multi-PI*.

The UFHCC Catchment Area Profile Report can be accessed [HERE](#).

Applications should address the aims of the program, however, applications whose scope expands beyond the aims are also encouraged.

The [MOO Aims](#) are:

- 1) Elucidate the role of genetic and epigenetic alterations in cancer
- 2) Define the role of regulatory microRNAs and long noncoding RNAs in oncogenesis
- 3) Translate MOO discoveries into novel therapeutic approaches

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., cohorts, clinical trials, community engagements), particularly those relevant to UFHCC's catchment area and to enhance our capacity for training (K-, R-, and T-series grants).

** Cancer Center membership is available and encouraged for all University of Florida investigators holding a faculty appointment and actively engaged, or demonstrate interest, in cancer-focused basic, clinical, translational, and population-based research.*

Who can apply?

1. PI or MPI must be a [MOO Research Program Member](#);
2. Previous UFHCC Awardees may apply, however, PI's who have received pilot funding in the last 2 years are not eligible;
3. Applications to support clinical trials will not be considered;
4. Faculty at all academic stages are eligible to apply;
5. PI should address how the project represents novel work in light of his/her current funding.



What is the application process?

1. While not required, a **letter of intent** to submit an application is requested by **October 15, 2021**. The following items should be included in the letter and should be sent to ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu.
 - a. Your name, title, email, department and college
 - b. Project title
 - c. Collaborators' names, titles, departments, and colleges
 - d. Relevance to the MOO aims described in this RFA
2. **Full Application** using the UFHCC Pilot Application Template found [HERE](#) and General Application Instructions found [HERE](#) will be due by **Friday, October 29, 2021**, to ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu.

What are the budgetary allowances?

1. 4 PES's up to \$25,000 total in direct costs only will be awarded. It is the expectation that all funds will be expended within the award year.
 - a. Approved NCE's will allow carryover of funds with approved scientific justification.
2. Budget and timeline appropriateness are a key basis for evaluation of the application.

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.

When will applicants receive notification of award?

Notification of award is expected by **December, 2021** and funds will be distributed in **January 2022**. The distribution of awards is contingent upon approval of the project from the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), as applicable. **Applicants must ensure and/or include the IRB/IACUC submission process in their timeline.**

Publication Acknowledgement

All publications shall acknowledge that "**Support was provided by the University of Florida Health Cancer Center**" along with the assigned UFHCC PES grant number and must be in PMCID compliance.

Shared Resource Acknowledgement

All publications utilizing UFHCC Shared Resources shall acknowledge that "**Support was provided by the University of Florida Health Cancer Center <INSERT SHARED RESOURCE>**" and must be in PMCID compliance.

Questions

Please direct any questions about the application process or budget requirements to Natalie Wasykowski (352.273.5981; or natalie.roman@ufl.edu). For questions regarding research scope or other science related inquiries, contact the MOO program leaders: Lizi Wu, PhD (lzwu@ufl.edu) or Daohong Zhou, MD (zhoudaohong@cop.ufl.edu).