



REQUEST FOR PILOT AND EXPLORATORY STUDY PROPOSAL SUPPLEMENT APPLICATIONS FOCUSING ON CANCER ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Release Date: December 17, 2021
Application Due: February 28, 2022

Background & Purpose

We are pleased to offer a new pilot and exploratory study proposal (PESP) supplement to provide additional funding to current UFHCC PESP awardees and those with PESP applications pending review for the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) in cancer research. This exciting opportunity is funded by the UFHCC's Cancer AI Working Group which aims to advance AI methods and applications in basic and translational cancer research, bridging interdisciplinary expertise and fostering early-career investigators.

The Cancer AI PESP supplement applications should address a cancer-related research problem with an AI application or development of AI methodology related to the problem of interest, however, applications whose scope expands beyond these aims are also encouraged.

Examples of proposals consistent with this opportunity include (but are not limited to) support for:

- Secondary data analyses on (large) cancer data or repositories, e.g., TCGA;
- Re-analysis of data generated through other projects;
- Exploratory studies, e.g., drug repurposing or molecular screening;
- Methodological studies with cancer use cases.
- Data generation and experimental projects are allowed only if tied to AI modeling performed within the project.

Who can apply?

- Each project must include at least one [UFHCC member*](#), acting as the Contact Principal Investigator (PI). Only independent investigators can apply for funding as a PI. The member must have an active UFHCC PESP award or PESP pending review.
- For those submitting supplements for pending applications, awarding of the AI supplement is contingent upon the award of the pending PESP application.
- Applications from post-doctoral associates are allowed if their mentor meets the criteria above.
- Applications must include at least two investigators from different colleges.
- Faculty at all academic stages may apply.
- Investigators may submit only one project during a funding cycle as the Contact PI. Clinical/Scientific advisory roles on more than one application are allowed.
- Applications from investigators with active pilot projects or active multi-investigator projects will be administratively disqualified unless:
 - The active project is ending before the award is issued for the current round.
 - or
 - The investigator(s) is/are proposing a project that is clearly scientifically distinct from the currently funded project.

What is the application process?

1. **Full Application** using the UFHCC Pilot Application Template found [HERE](#) and General Application Instructions found [HERE](#) will be due by 2/28/2021. The electronic form will transmit directly to the UFHCC Office of Research Administration.
2. Applications will be peer reviewed by the Cancer AI Working Group, and by external advisors if needed

** 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.*



What are the budgetary allowances?

1. **\$10,000** has been committed to this funding opportunity. It is the expectation that all funds will be expended within 9-month project period.
 - a. No-cost extensions are not allowed for this supplement.
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 expected unless the supplement application demonstrates that data can for AI analysis can be obtained independent of a funded project.

When will applicants receive notification of award?

Award notification and fund activation is expected by **May 1, 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.**

Awardee Obligations

Applicants agree to present the results of their work in one of the Cancer AI workgroup meetings by the end of the 9-months project period

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 Dr. Mattia Prosperi (m.prosperi@ufl.edu) and Dr. Qing Lu (lucienq@ufl.edu), Cancer AI Working Group leaders.