REQUEST FOR PILOT AND EXPLORATORY STUDY PROPOSALS
COLLABORATIVE PILOT WITH UF SCRIPPS

Release Date: September 18, 2023
Full Application Due: November 15, 2023

Background & Purpose
Presenting the first Pilot Program RFA for collaborative research programs between the NCI-designated University of Florida Health Cancer Center and Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Florida institute for Biomedical Innovation and Technology. This RFA solicits applications from at least two investigators working together on a cancer-focused research question with the goal of generating preliminary data for future MPI applications to Federal or State funding agencies. Research can focus on either basic or translational projects that focus on any cancer. For translational proposals collaborations including physician/physician scientists are highly encouraged. Furthermore, applications focused on catchment area cancers such as lung, breast, prostate, colorectal cancer, and melanoma are especially encouraged.

The UFHCC Catchment Area Profile Report can be accessed HERE.

Applications could address themes such as Epigenetics, Structure Function, RNA Biology, Therapeutic Targeting, Screening, and Development, Natural Products to name a few. However, applications whose scope expands beyond these themes are also eligible for submission.

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).

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.
- 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.
  - 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 electronic UFHCC Pilot Application found HERE and General Application Instructions found HERE will be due by November 15, 2023. While we encourage engaging your home department research administrators in the preparation and submission of PESP applications, these proposals do not need to be routed through UFIRST and are to be directly submitted to UFHCC Research Administration.

* 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. Funds up to $100,000 total in direct costs only (No IDCs) 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 2023 and funds will be distributed in January 2024. 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.

Acknowledgement
All publications shall acknowledge that “Research reported in this publication was supported by the UF Health Cancer Center, supported in part by state appropriations provided in Fla. Stat. § 381.915 and the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P30CA247796. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health or the State of Florida”

Questions
Please direct any questions about the application process or budget requirements to ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu or 352-273-5940. For questions regarding research scope or other science related inquiries, contact Rolf Renne, rrenne@ufl.edu.