



## REQUEST FOR PILOT AND EXPLORATORY STUDY PROPOSALS

### Mechanisms of Oncogenesis

**Release Date:** February 14, 2025  
**Letter of Intent Due (Requested):** February 28, 2025  
**Full Application Due:** March 17, 2025

### Background & Purpose

Applications should address the aims of the MOO 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 RNAs and RNA modifications in oncogenesis
- 3) Investigate the role of tumor viruses in cancer.

Successful applications should collect pilot data leading 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?

- Who can apply?
- Each project must be collaborative (Intra- or Inter-programmatic) and include one UFHCC MOO member as the Contact Principal Investigator (PI).
- Faculty at all academic stages may apply.
- Investigators may submit only one project during a funding cycle as the Contact PI. However, serving in Clinical/Scientific advisory roles on multiple applications is allowed. The application should describe how the proposed project represents a novel collaborative effort in the context of the applicants' current funding.
- 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.

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

### What is the application process?

While not required, a **letter of intent** to apply is requested by **February 28, 2025**. The LOI is submitted via Microsoft Forms at the link [HERE](#). The items below should be included in the letter and sent to [ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu). This is for informational purposes only, such as identifying and recruiting reviewers. Applicants will not receive a formal invitation and may go forward with a full application submission.

- a. Your name, title, email, department, and college
  - b. Project title
  - c. Collaborators' names, titles, departments, and colleges
  - d. Relevance to the 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 **March 17, 2025** to [ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu). While we encourage engaging your home department research administrators in preparing and submitting PESP applications, these proposals do not need to be routed through UFIRST. They are to be directly submitted to the UFHCC Research Administration via the above link.

### What are the budgetary allowances?

1. **Two** PESPs up to **\$50,000** in direct costs will be awarded. It is the expectation that all funds will be expended within the award year.
  - a. Approved NCEs will allow the carryover of funds with approved scientific justification.
2. Budget and timeline appropriateness are key to the evaluation of the application.

### Will support from other entities enhance the funding potential?

Leveraging funding from this award by combining resources from other entities is encouraged but not required.

### When will applicants receive notification of the award?

Award notification is expected by **April 2025** and funds will be distributed in **May 2025**. 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

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 **“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.”** 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 comply with PMCID.

### **Data Sharing**

Scientific data (including the raw data) directly generated from this RFA must be submitted to the Cancer Data Commons for sharing and reuse with other UFHCC investigators, following the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse (FAIR) principles. The Cancer Informatics Shared Resource (CISR) will support data management and ensure that study-generated research data can be readily available in Cancer Data Commons.

### **Questions**

Please direct any questions about the application process or budget requirements to [ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu) or 352-273-5940. For questions regarding research scope or other science-related inquiries, contact Lizi Wu [lzwu@ufl.edu](mailto:lzwu@ufl.edu) or Zhijian Qian [Zhijian.Qian@medicine.ufl.edu](mailto:Zhijian.Qian@medicine.ufl.edu) .