



**2022 Moores Cancer Center Community Outreach & Engagement (COE)
PILOT PROJECT AWARDS
TO STIMULATE RESEARCH IN CATCHMENT AREA PRIORITY CANCERS**

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Deadline: August 19, 2022 @5:00 PM (PST)

PURPOSE: Moores Cancer Center **Community Outreach and Engagement (COE)** invites full and associate members, post-docs with an established member mentor, and early-stage investigators from the MCC consortium (UC San Diego, San Diego State University, La Jolla Institute for Immunology) to submit proposals for pilot awards to support catchment area priority cancer research. Expected return on investment is a successful K-series, R-series, or other similar extramural award as a result of preliminary data generated by pilot award support.

Submissions are required to address one or more catchment area (San Diego County) priority cancers: lung, breast, prostate, colorectal, pancreas, liver, leukemia, and HPV-driven cancers.

Priority will be given to:

- 1) Projects that focus on racial or ethnic groups and LGBTQ+ community, who are disproportionately impacted by the selected cancer(s)
- 2) Projects that incorporate the community voice, through partnerships, advisors, or other means
- 3) Innovative new pilots, which can generate data supporting applications, especially those that are responsive to specific National Cancer Institute program announcements
- 4) Projects previously submitted but not awarded for extramural funding that would benefit from generation of additional preliminary data (e.g., "near miss" K awards and R01s or submitted awards under review for which additional preliminary data are likely needed)

COE aims to reduce the cancer burden in the MCC catchment area by facilitating and catalyzing research that addresses this burden, particularly in priority cancers and by reducing cancer disparities. This RFA seeks applications that align with this aim in basic, clinical, translational, and/or population science research at any point along the cancer continuum.

Success is measured by publications, submitted and funded R-series and K-series grants, changes in public policy, and community benefit to underserved populations.

2022 COE PILOT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE:

- One (1) award up to **\$50K total costs/year for one (1) year** is expected to be funded
- A PI or co-PI may submit only one application
- Funds are subject to availability

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS: Applications must include a PI that is a full or associate cancer center member, post-doc with an established cancer center member mentor, or early-stage investigator from UC San Diego, San Diego State University, or La Jolla Institute for Immunology. All proposals must be submitted on the form(s) provided (see Submission Guidelines section) and conform to the specifications provided.

- A. **Scientific Abstract** (up to 250 words): The purpose of the Project Summary/Abstract is to describe succinctly every major aspect of the proposed project. It should contain a statement of objectives and methods to be employed.
- B. **Lay Abstract** (up to 250 words): Describe in lay language the potential impact of the project on cancer treatment, prevention and diagnosis in the short and long term.

- C. **Specific Aims** (up to 1 page): The purpose of the Specific Aims is to describe concisely and realistically the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact the proposed research will exert on the research fields involved. The Specific Aims should include goals, hypotheses, role of each PI and senior/key personnel, and expected outcomes.
- D. **Research Strategy** (up to 3 pages, **excluding references**): This section should not exceed 3 pages including preliminary data, and should address the following: Significance, Innovation, Approach, Timeline, Accrual Milestones (if applicable), Biostatistics Summary, References (not included in page limit). The Significance should explain the importance of the problem or describe the critical barrier to progress in the field that is being addressed. Explain how the proposed research project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved. The Innovation should explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. The purpose of the Approach is to describe how the research will be carried out. Applications must propose the use of institutional core facilities, if applicable and available. This section is crucial to how favorably an application is reviewed.
- E. **Biosketches**: An NIH-style biosketch for each PI and senior/key personnel; include **Other Support Pages** with **current** and **pending** support.
- F. **Budget and Budget Justification** (No page limit): The purpose of the budget and justification is to present and justify all expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives. A budget justification and summary for all major budget categories (e.g., salary, etc.) must be provided for each site. Each site budget amount must be at least 30% of the total budget. The application must also include a composite budget summary across all institutions. Please indicate performance period for the project and if cost sharing will be provided from other funding sources to complete the aims of the project in your budget justification.
- G. **For proposals involving a clinical trial**, pertinent information must include: (a) intervention(s) to be used, reasons for the selection of intervention(s), and mode(s) of delivery; (b) study design, treatment group(s), trial size, and inclusion/exclusion criteria; (c) control group(s) if applicable; (d) outcome measures; and (e) data analysis plan if applicable. Awards can be leveraged with other funding sources for the clinical trial if feasibility (e.g., drug availability, accrual and timeline) is clearly outlined in the application.
- H. **Biospecimen Request Form**: For proposals utilizing MCC Biorepository specimens, a Biospecimen Request Form must be completed. The Biorepository and Tissue Technology Shared Resource website provides additional detail about available resources. Please contact the Biorepository Manager (Sharmeela Kaushal, PhD) at ccbr@ucsd.edu. Investigator must establish study feasibility (e.g., availability of suitable samples) to be included with the application.
- I. **Projects proposing to study patients** at MCC or Rady Children's Hospital (or patients from other clinical institutions) must have signed approval of the respective Disease Team Leaders declaring that the study is feasible based upon the proposed patient population, needed accrual, and competing funded studies. Where appropriate, physicians overseeing the care of these patients should be considered for co-investigator status.

REVIEW / EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The MCC Pilot Grants Program will appoint a Review Committee to conduct an NIH-style peer review of applications. Scores and reviews will be submitted to the COE leadership with recommendations for funding. This RFP is intended to support the mission of the COE, as noted above. Applications must address at least one of the following MCC catchment area cancers: breast, prostate, colorectal, lung,

pancreas, leukemia, liver, and/or HPV-related cancers. Priority will be given to applications that address these cancers in underserved communities.

The Review Committee will evaluate the following aspects of each application:

- Scientific merit of the proposed research project
- Significance of the proposed research, i.e., whether it addresses a critical need for rapid progress beyond current approaches
- Novelty of the hypothesis or methodology
- Degree to which the studies will have a positive impact on MCC catchment area cancers and in addressing the burden of these cancers in underserved communities
- Likelihood that the project will lead to significant follow-on funding and/or return on investment
- A clear commitment by grant awardees that data resulting from their work will be available to the scientific community at large at the earliest opportunity
- Likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals given the budget requested, institutional environments, and other resources available
- Whether the studies are designed to capitalize upon the unique populations and environments, specialized expertise, new concepts and perspectives, innovative methodologies, and/or emerging technologies that are available
- Whether adequate institutional and/or financial support exists to sustain the research project
- Fulfillment of the requirements and eligibility criteria of this RFP.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: The deadline is 5:00 PM PST, **August 19, 2022**. The earliest starting date is **November 1, 2022**. All applications (pdf) must be submitted electronically via the MCC web-based pilot project review system called **WebGAAS**: <http://moores.ucsd.edu/Admin/grants-in-aid.asp>. **The forms for the application are located in this portal and must be used.** Once an application has been submitted electronically via *WebGAAS*, it cannot be changed.

BUDGETARY GUIDELINES: The budget may include partial salary support (up to the NIH cap) for faculty investigators, trainee investigators (graduate students/postdocs), laboratory technicians, protocol writer, and other related study expenses. Also included: shared resources, publication fees, and supplies. **Travel to professional meetings, professional meeting fees, salary support for administrative personnel, and equipment are excluded.** Award funds may not be applied to costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor or cost shared by another sponsor. **No IDC allowed.** *For non-MCC institutions, a letter of their institutional commitment to waiving IDC must be included with the application.*

FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS:

All applications must be submitted on the forms provided and adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use Arial font 11 points or larger
- Use at least 0.5 inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages
- The application must be single-spaced and saved as a PDF
- Consecutively number pages in the Research Proposal
- As applicable, figures or other materials must be inserted directly into the body of the application
- No appendices

USE OF FUNDS: The funds are to be used in general agreement with the research budget plan submitted with the application, but the Center will allow the investigator to re-budget up to 10%, in accordance with his or her needs, without requiring a budget resubmission. A no-cost extension beyond the 1-year grant funding period is not automatic and must be requested a minimum of 60 days before the project end date. A progress report must be completed prior to approving a no-cost extension.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECTS, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES: Pending IRB or IACUC approval, copies of IRB or IACUC approval must be submitted prior to activation of the grant award.

PUBLICATIONS: All publications (as well as posters and abstracts at scientific meetings) that result from the support provided by this award must acknowledge that support in writing as follows: **“UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, Specialized Cancer Center Support Grant NIH/NCI P30CA023100”**

EARLY TERMINATION OR TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS: If the PI/Co-PI decides to discontinue the research project, the project will be terminated and funds must be returned. If a PI or Co-PI leaves their institution, the funds are non-transferable to an outside institution. A plan must be formulated with MCC to either transfer PI-ship or terminate the project with the funds returned. **In the event of project discontinuation or PI/Co-PI departure, the MCC Pilot Grants Committee must be notified in writing within 7 days of the decision.**

GRANTEE PROGRESS / IMPACT REPORTS:

- The **Progress Report** form will be sent to the PI six (6) months after the funding period begins.
- The **Impact Report** form will be sent to the PI one (1) month after the funding period ends.

Each form must be completed and returned within one (1) week to Karina Moyano (kmoyano@health.ucsd.edu) for review by COE leadership.

INQUIRIES:

- Karina Moyano, kmoyano@health.ucsd.edu