

Masonic Cancer Center CRTI Translational Research Grants Spring 2021

Objective

The objective of the CRTI Translational Research Grant is to partner Masonic Cancer Center basic/translational and clinical scientists so as to foster the development of novel experimental therapeutic agents and to facilitate their testing in institutional Phase I/II and IND clinical trials, and non-therapeutic cancer research. These grants will provide targeted investments to promising translational studies with the goal of opening a clinical trial within 3-5 years.

The goal of our spring cycle funding opportunities is to support new research ideas that foster the development of and provide support for novel research ideas that focus on cancer research question. Research ideas that support the [MCC Scientific Priorities for Growth](#) are highly encouraged and will be given special consideration. In turn, the cancer center expects that these internal awards will lead to nationally peer reviewed funding. Funding priority will be given to those projects that **address a cancer-related challenge unique in the State of Minnesota (e.g., projects relevant to underserved racial/ethnic minorities and/or rural populations or specific exposures to cancer causing compounds).**

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

- These research grants are available to Masonic Cancer Center members with faculty appointments at the University of Minnesota.
- The proposed project must be a joint, collaborative effort by at least two Cancer Center members – one basic/translational scientist and one clinician.
- Projects must be beyond basic, development and proof of concept. The goal is to fund work for projects that will lead to the opening of a clinical trial within 3-5 years.
- Examples of projects that will be considered:
 - Funds to support peer-reviewed research projects with funding gaps (NIH grants will be prioritized)
 - Funds to support in vitro or murine pre-clinical data collection to support an IND and/or clinical protocol
 - Funds for pilot research for a translational grant application that would support clinical trial costs
 - Funds to support scale-up or validation of a product manufacture process for an IND clinical trial
- Proposed research must meet specific goals to open a clinical trial within 3-5 years, and/or to prepare a competitive application for clinical trial funding
- All applicants are required to have proper approvals (IRB/IACUC/IBC) before research may begin. Applicants are highly encouraged to apply for proper approvals at or prior to the time of submission. This will ensure that the study is approved by the start date of the award.

Funding Mechanism Information

Applications with budgets of \$50,000 for a one year term will be considered.

Up to two awards will be made depending upon scientific review and budget requests in the designated areas:

- Solid tumor diseases
- Hematologic malignancies
- Non-therapeutic cancer research
- Genomics and precision medicine

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Application Process/Proposal Guidelines

- Application format should follow NIH format whenever possible.
 - Font size - at least 11 pt. Arial preferred.

Applications will be submitted in [InfoReady](#) and include the following components:

- Research Plan, single-spaced (three page maximum)
 - Specific Aims
 - Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation, Approach)
 - Include a plan and timeline to open a clinical trial within 3-5 years
 - Should not include preprints, reprints, or other forms of freestanding preliminary data as appendices
- References (no page limit)
- **Funding Mechanism Mission Statement (required)** How does the proposed research fit with the mission of this funding mechanism?
- **Catchment Area Statement (if applicable)**
Explain how the project addresses a cancer-related challenge unique to the State of Minnesota (e.g., projects relevant to underserved racial/ethnic minorities and/or rural populations or specific exposures to cancer causing compounds).
- **MCC Scientific Priority for Growth Statement (if applicable)**
How does this project address the [MCC Scientific Priorities for Growth](#)?
- Biosketches for all key personnel - follow current NIH format (5 pages per biosketch)
- Attestation of project's other support (if any) (table provided)
- Detailed budget and justification, project period: July 1-June 30
 - Research personnel (e.g. grad students, lab staff, technicians). No faculty salary allowed.
 - Research supplies
 - Core service expenses (e.g. flow cytometry, tissue procurement)
 - Small equipment (less than \$10,000)
 - Animal costs
 - No indirect costs (internal award)
- Letters of collaborator or resource support (optional)

Review Process

Each mechanism has an internally-selected committee that will review applications. The committee will make recommendations for funding to the Mechanism Lead. De-identified, written reviews/critiques will be sent upon request.

Applicants will be notified of the review outcome by mid-June. Awards will be made for one year, with an anticipated activation date of July 1.

Reporting Requirements

Principal investigators of funded projects will be required to provide final reports that include accounting of all funds expended to date and progress towards milestones. Reports are to be submitted in InfoReady. It is expected that all funds will be expended by June 30, 2022 with extensions being considered only in exceptional cases and requiring the approval of the Mechanism Lead.

MCC communications staff may reach out to awardees in the process of crafting communications (publications, website, flyers, etc.) for external audiences.

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During a period of up to 7 years following the end of the pilot award, if any grants or publications are obtained as a result of this pilot funding, awardees are required to submit this information to the MCC Internal Grants Program Coordinator

Grant Program Contacts

All questions related to the application process, requirements, or eligibility should be directed to:

MCC Internal Grants Program Coordinator

mccgrant@umn.edu

Any questions regarding the applicability of research should be directed to:

Deepa Kolaseri, PhD

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