

# Masonic Cancer Center Translational Working Group Award Spring 2021

## Objective

The objective of the Translational Working Group (TWG) awards is to make an impact on the translational goals of the TWGs in research leading to novel approaches in cancer diagnosis, prevention or treatment. The Masonic Cancer Center (MCC) is especially interested in applications that have potential to translate findings to a clinical trial or clinical application, or in research that takes a clinical observation to the laboratory to study novel cancer mechanisms.

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.

In addition to the TWG criteria outlined below, 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 pilot grants are available to Masonic Cancer Center members with faculty appointments at the University of Minnesota who are also members of one of the Translational Working Groups (TWGs), i.e. Brain Tumor, Breast Cancer, Cutaneous Oncology, Gastrointestinal, Gynecologic Cancers, Head and Neck Cancer, Prostate and Urologic Cancer, Sarcoma, Thoracic.
- Applications must have a translational cancer-related theme relevant to one of the TWGs and have the endorsement of the leader(s) of the relevant TWG. **Each TWG may submit only one application.**
- The primary criteria for funding will be 1) likelihood that the project will make an impact on the translational goals of the TWG, 2) the quality of the research approach, 3) the potential for future outside funding to sustain or further develop the translational objective. Proposed research must be hypothesis-driven or hypothesis-generating and have the goal of making progress for a specific translational objective.
- Examples of projects that will be considered:
  - Funds to supplement biomarker analysis for an ongoing preclinical or clinical study
  - Funds to support pilot research for a translational grant application
  - Funds to support development of a clinical trial
  - Funds to develop or utilize a human biospecimen collection for a specific research objective

## Funding Information

- Applications with budgets of \$50,000 for a one year term will be considered.
- Two awards will be made depending upon scientific review.

## Proposal Guidelines and Application Process

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

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

- **Funding Mechanism Mission Statement (Required)**  
How does the proposed research fit with the objective of this funding mechanism?
- **MCC Scientific Priority for Growth Statement (If Applicable)**  
How does this project address one or more of the [MCC Scientific Priorities for Growth?](#)
- **Catchment Area Statement (If Applicable)**  
Does the project address 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).
- **Research Plan, single-spaced (three page maximum) should include:**
  - Research Strategy (Translational Significance, Innovation, Approach)
  - Explanation of how proposed study will impact the TWG's translational program
  - Specific Aims
  - Should **not** include preprints, reprints, or other forms of freestanding preliminary data as appendices
- **References (no page limit)**
- **Biosketches** for all key personnel - follow current NIH format (5 pages per biosketch)
- **Other Support - Current & pending support for all key personnel** - follow NIH format, include federal and non-federal support, addressing any overlap to the proposed project.
- **Detailed budget and justification**, NIH format, project period: July 1- June 30 (1 year)
  - 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)

Note: PRFs are not required at the time of proposal submission. PRFS are only required for awarded applications. 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.

## 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 via InfoReady.

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 via InfoReady and will be shared with the Mechanism Lead. It is expected that all funds will be expended by June 30 with extensions being considered only in exceptional cases and requiring the approval of the Mechanism Lead.

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

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](mailto:mccgrant@umn.edu)

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

Jill M. Siegfried, PhD  
612-624-2584  
[jsiegfri@umn.edu](mailto:jsiegfri@umn.edu)