

Request for Proposals: Developmental Project Funding for Lymphoma Research 2011

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Deadline for applications: November 1, 2011

Please send applications via e-mail to: Brian_Martin@urmc.rochester.edu

Anticipated Start of Funding: December 1, 2011

The Developmental Research Program for the Lymphoma SPORE at the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester, the Arizona Cancer Center at the University of Arizona, and the Massey Cancer Center at Virginia Commonwealth University announces the availability of funding for innovative and collaborative basic, translational, clinical or epidemiological research pilot projects directly relevant to lymphoma that are likely to lead to peer-reviewed extramural funding.

Awards will be made for up to \$25,000 or \$50,000 direct costs for one year depending on the type of application (see 1 and 2 below). Funding may be renewed for a second year following a brief progress review. Women and minority investigators are encouraged to apply for these grants.

1) Candidate Full Projects: Proposals may be submitted that are designed to develop into full Lymphoma SPORE Research Projects. Each of these proposals will be required to represent a research project led by a clinical investigator *and* a basic scientist, with clear emphasis on translational studies in lymphoma. Further, an important aspect of the application will be a specific plan for transition of the developmental project into a full-scale SPORE project (or equivalent). These proposals may request funding for up to \$50,000 per year for 2 years. Second year funding will be contingent upon submission and satisfactory evaluation of a first year progress report.

2) Focused projects: These proposals may identify important technology or research questions associated with one of the Lymphoma SPORE projects or cores. Projects of this nature are not expected to develop into full SPORE projects; however, their objectives should benefit overall SPORE goals and/or contribute to the study of lymphoma. These proposals may be funded for up to \$25,000 for one year, *and may be given to a single investigator from either the basic science or clinical setting.*

Application process

Investigators will be asked to submit a full application, in the NIH format (5 page maximum for research description - Sections A-D), including resource pages, human subjects and vertebrate animals sections, NIH biosketch(es), budget, and budget justifications. The application will be reviewed for scientific merit, feasibility, and overall relevance to the lymphoma SPORE program, including translational potential of the proposed research as described below.

Review Process

The Lymphoma SPORE Developmental Research Program Review Committee chaired by Dr. Hartmut Land, Scientific Director of the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center will be responsible for the review process. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least two experts with appropriate expertise. Reviewers will be selected (on an ad hoc basis) from the faculty at the University of Rochester, the University of Arizona, and the Massey Cancer Center. Additionally, the external advisory board to the Lymphoma SPORE will be utilized for this purpose, as well as experts from the other lymphoma SPOREs.

The proposals will be evaluated for originality, scientific design, and particular attention to translational relevance. Standard NIH review criteria for significance, approach, innovation, investigator, and environment will be applied. Only proposals with the highest scientific merit and directly related to lymphoma research will be considered for funding.

The Program Review Committee will present the results of the review to the Lymphoma SPORE Steering Committee, which will make the final funding decisions. The Lymphoma SPORE steering committee will also consider specimen availability, patient availability, integration into the overall grant, and core utilizations in addition to the committee recommendations in making final funding decisions.

Resources for Awardees

Participants in the developmental program will be encouraged to utilize core facilities, including the specimen core, the clinical trials core, and the biostatistical core. These interactions will maximize the resources of the SPORE in support of the developmental projects, and also increase interactions between SPORE core leaders and the developmental projects. Additionally, the expertise in the clinical trials core will maximize the translational potential of the developmental projects.

Interactions of Awardees with SPORE participants

Participants in the Developmental Research Program will be invited to SPORE meetings to present their findings, and to foster interactions among SPORE investigators.

Evaluation of Developmental Research Projects

The principal investigator for each Developmental Research Project will be required to submit a yearly report detailing the results and progress of the pilot grant to the Developmental Research Program Review Committee and via that committee to the Lymphoma SPORE Steering Committee. The Lymphoma SPORE Steering Committee will be charged with determining whether a second year of funding is warranted. This evaluation will be based upon both the written report, as well as evaluation during the presentations to SPORE investigators. In addition, the Lymphoma SPORE Steering Committee will determine, in conjunction with NCI program staff, whether an outstanding developmental project will be recommended to promotion to a fully funded Lymphoma SPORE project.