Spring 2022 Request for Applications
Phase I ABSTRACT DEADLINE: April 15, 2022
Phase II APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 13, 2022

Purpose
To support a broad range of highly innovative and collaborative research projects and pilot studies to address key gaps in our understanding of the molecular and cellular regulation of cancer microenvironment (CM) and its function.

Background
The goal of this proposal is to define the checkpoints, identify molecular interactions and/or develop novel technologies that can help our understanding of the cancer microenvironment in its broadest definition, with the potential to guide successful development of therapeutic approaches. The objective of this Pilot Project is to facilitate collaborative interactions among CM members, bringing together scientific expertise to address fundamental processes in cancer using cutting-edge approaches. Priority will be given to proposals with the potential to lead to extramural MPI grant applications. Interactions of two or more Cancer Microenvironment members are required.

Eligibility
University of Rochester Faculty, Including Instructor, Senior Instructor, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors or Full Professors. Successful projects will have a collaborative component with multiple investigators within Wilmot's research programs.

Projects will receive the highest priority if they*:*
• Have strong potential for follow up funding by national, state or private agencies
• Are interdisciplinary and create new collaborations involving multiple departments
• Are aligned with Wilmot's strategic plan (available on Wilmot's website)

Awards
Awards will be made for a one-year period with maximum funding of **$40,000** in Direct Costs. If the proposal explicitly outlines a plan to utilize the Wilmot Shared resources, an additional **$10,000** Direct Costs will be added. Indirect Costs are not allowable. PI salary support is not allowed.

Phase I Abstract
Initial applications should include a one-page abstract (or letter of intent) describing the goals and objectives of the proposed project, the relevance to the mission of the CM program, and the investigators involved (there is no form template for the abstract portion). It is critical that research ideas are expressed in such a way that a non-expert can understand the ideas and appreciate their significance and potential impact. Additionally, funds may only be spent between June 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023, so awardees must commit to completing the specific aims of the project within the allowed one-year time period. Abstracts will be reviewed and those applicants selected to submit full applications will be contacted shortly thereafter (Monday April 18). Please submit your abstracts to Jaycee Bristol, before or on **April 15, 2022 (Friday).**

Phase II Application Instructions
Applications must be submitted to Jaycee Bristol, before or on **May 13, 2022 (Friday).**
Applicants are encouraged to submit electronically as an attachment in pdf format.

Application Requirements:
☐ CM Proposal sign-off form
☐ Modified PHS 398 face page (page 4 of these guidelines)
☐ Abstract

- ☐ NIH-format biosketch for PI, co-investigators and mentors
- ☐ Updated Other Support for PI only
- ☐ Research Plan (limited to **3 pages**):
  The Research Plan consists of items noted below, as applicable. It should be self-contained and include sufficient information to evaluate the project, independent of any other document (e.g., previous application). Be specific and informative, and avoid redundancies.
  - Specific Aims
  - Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation and Approach)
  - Timeline
- ☐ Plans for Future Funding (short paragraph):
  - Provide a short outline of how the pilot will develop into a NIH-funded grant.
- ☐ Human Subjects and Animals (no limit):
  The Human Subjects and Animals Plan consists of items noted below, as applicable. It should be self-contained and include sufficient information to evaluate the project, independent of any other document (e.g., previous application). Be specific and informative, and avoid redundancies.
  - Protection of Human Subjects
  - Vertebrate Animals
- ☐ Budget (limited to 1 page using [PHS 398 Form Page 4](#), providing a detailed description of supplies and other expenses within the form page):
  - Limited to **$40,000 (+$10,000; Core)** direct costs
  - Except under exceptional circumstances, funds may not be used to support faculty salary but the budget must identify the proposed effort.
  - Funds may not be used for travel to professional meetings or equipment.
  - Funds may be used to support research supplies and expenses, travel to collect data and other nonfaculty salary.
  - If applicable, identify other sources of support that will be used to complete the pilot project.
- ☐ Bibliography

Submission and Review Process

This is an internal competition for WCI pilot project. **ORPA review and sign-off is not required but departmental review and approval should be sought through the CM sign-off form.**

Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee and will be assigned a priority score in accordance with these 6 categories**:**

- Significance (including scientific premise and hypothesis)
- PI, Scientific Team & Environment
- Innovation and Multidisciplinary Approach
- Experimental Approach (including methods and authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources, if applicable)
- Responsiveness to the terms of this RFA
- Probability of future NIH funding

A summary of the reviewers' comments will be provided once the review process has been completed

Award Process

CM program will notify selected investigators via email by **June 1, 2022**. Funding will not be released until all UR regulatory requirements have been met including IRB, IBC and IACUC approvals as applicable. Upon receipt of all required documentation, the CM program will issue a formal internal Notice of Award.

Reporting Requirements

The pilot PI(s) will be required to attend monthly CM meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm.

The pilot PI will be required to give an oral presentation of their findings at the end of the project period. A final written progress report will also be required, which must include the following:

- Status of the work supported by pilot grant
- Statement regarding resulting grant applications, publications, presentations and inventions
- Update regarding plans for future funding resulting from the project

Inquiries:
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