# Wilmot Cancer Institute

2023 Team Science Pilot Studies
Call for Applications

The Wilmot Cancer Institute invites applications for collaborative pilot project funding, targeted to enable new competitive multiple-principal investigator NCI R01-level grant applications. Projects may involve basic, translational, clinical or population science research. Particular emphasis will be given to projects which (1) develop inter-programmatic collaborations (that is, collaborations involving members of at least two Wilmot research programs); (2) already have proven feasibility; (3) are relevant to Wilmot catchment area priorities; and (4) align with the Wilmot strategic plan.

Funding through this mechanism will be for a single year. No-cost extensions and renewals are not allowed.

## Important Dates
• Statements of intent due: Monday, October 16, 2023, at 5:00PM
• Notification of invitations to submit full applications: Friday, October 20, 2023
• Full applications due: Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5:00PM
• Award notification: By Friday, December 15, 2023
• Project start date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024
• Final progress reports due: November 1, 2024

## Eligibility
At least two principal investigators are required for each application. At least one of the PIs must be a member of the Wilmot Cancer Institute.

## Budget
Applicants may request a budget of up to $75,000. Funds may be used for research costs only, and may not support faculty salaries, catering, administrative staff, and the like. Travel is not allowed. Costs must be justified.

## Application Process
The application process for this program features two stages. Stage 1 requires only a statement of intent that provides a brief summary of the proposed project, along with other details outlined below. Competitive applicant teams will be invited to participate in Stage 2, which requires the submission of additional detail about the proposed project, project team, and planned outcomes. Please see below.

Stage 1: Statement of Intent Format
Upload your statement of intent here by the due date specified above.
• Format: use the Statement of Intent template available here.
• Maximum length: 2 pages
• Content. The statement of intent must include the following information:
  o Project title
  o Contact PI name, department, Wilmot research program affiliation, and DWG affiliation (if applicable)
  o Other PI names, departments, Wilmot research program affiliations, DWG affiliations
  o Project abstract: state the project's broad and long-term objectives
  o Specific aims: describe research design and methods for achieving stated goals
  o Intended outcomes: for example, knowledge and experience gained through the pilot, and planned grant applications that will follow pilot project completion

Stage 2: Full Application Format
Invited full applications must include the components listed below. Follow specific application instructions available here. Upload your completed application here.

• Face Page (see instructions for format)

- Lay abstract (10 lines)
- Specific aims (1 page)
- Project proposal (3 pages), organized under the headings of background and significance (including catchment area relevance and alignment with the Wilmot strategic plan, as appropriate), innovation, and approach (including feasibility, project timeline and milestones)
- Bibliography and references cited (no limit)
- Plans regarding the use of vertebrate animals or involvement of human subjects
- Budget and justification
- PI biosketches (NIH format)

## Application Review Information

Stage 1

A panel representing Wilmot scientists and administration will confirm eligibility and review statements of intent. The most competitive and responsive projects will be invited to submit full applications.

Stage 2

In stage 2, a review panel with subject matter expertise will review invited full applications, using a process similar to NIH peer review. Applications will be scored and ranked by the review panel. The Wilmot Executive Committee will provide input on review panel recommendations, with funding decisions subject to approval of the Director of the Wilmot Cancer Institute. Applicants will receive written feedback intended to provide guidance to improve future proposals.

Full Application Review Criteria

- Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?  How will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field? Is it likely that successful completion of the project will support the planned R01 (or equivalent) application? Does the project address a Wilmot catchment area priority? Does the project align with the Wilmot strategic plan?
- Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?
- Investigators: Do the investigators have the knowledge and expertise to complete the proposed project? Do they have complementary and integrated expertise? Are they likely to follow through with the planned subsequent extramural grant application?
- Approach: Are the overall strategies, methodologies, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? If the project involves human subjects, are plans adequate to address risks to participants? Are plans for inclusion or exclusion of individuals or groups across the lifespan adequate and scientifically justified? If the project will utilize live vertebrate animals, are procedures scientifically justified?
- Feasibility: Is the study timeline realistic given project scope? Does the project team have access to departmental and institutional support, equipment, and other resources required to complete the project?

## Award Information

Reporting

Successful project teams are required to respond to *ad hoc* requests for project updates, attend and participate in monthly meetings of at least one Wilmot research program, provide periodic updates at program meetings, and present at the annual Wilmot symposium. A written, succinct progress report will be required by November 1 of the project year, covering spending relative to budget, scientific progress with reference to planned specific aims, and activities and plans related to dissemination of findings (e.g., presentations, posters, manuscripts prepared, manuscripts submitted, manuscripts published). Reporting on grants that benefitted from knowledge and experience gained through the pilot project (submitted or received) is required when appropriate and without time limit.

<u>Other Terms</u>

Funds will not be released until all needed RSRB and UCAR approvals are provided to Wilmot administration.

At least one R01 or equivalent grant application, supported by knowledge and experience gained through the pilot project, must be submitted to NCI in reasonably diligent fashion after completion of the pilot project. A copy of all grant applications that benefit from the pilot project must be provided to Wilmot administration.

All publications, posters and presentations benefiting from or resulting from the awarded funds must acknowledge support of the Wilmot Cancer Institute, and if appropriate, Wilmot shared resources using language similar to the following: "The work described in this [publication | presentation | poster] was supported [in part] by the Wilmot Cancer Institute and benefited from the support of the Wilmot [Biobank |Biostatistics and Bioinformatics | Cytometry | Genomics | Human Biophysiology | Imaging and Radiation] Shared Resource."

All publications benefiting from or resulting from the awarded funds must comply with the NIH Public Access Policy.

## Contacts for Additional Information

- Contact Thom Fogg at with questions about the program or application process.
- For questions on scientific matters, contact a Wilmot research program leader:
  - Genetics, Epigenetics and Metabolism: Paula Vertino, PhD, or Darren Carpizo, MD, PhD
  - Cancer Microenvironment: Laura Calvi, MD, or Minsoo Kim, PhD
  - Cancer Prevention and Control: Karen Mustian, PhD, or Supriya Mohile, MD, MS
    *-or-*
  - Wilmot Assistant Director for Clinical Research: Paul Barr, MD
- For questions regarding Wilmot catchment area research priorities, contact Charles Kamen, PhD, Assistant Director for Community Outreach and Engagement.