

University of Puerto Rico/MD Anderson Cancer Center Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research

2015-16 Call for Pilot Research

Release Date: November 6, 2015

Project Background

Originally awarded in 2008, the U54 competitive renewal seeks to:

- 1) foster and support an existing collaboration between the UPR and MD Anderson through research, outreach and training efforts, and
- 2) develop a stronger national cancer program aimed at understanding the reasons behind the significant cancer disparities and related impacts on Hispanics.

Funding Available

Three awards are available for pilot projects (up to \$120,000 per award per year between both institutions). Proposals will be accepted for projects that have the potential to develop into U54 full projects or NIH grants. The award will be issued for 1 year with additional funding of up to 2 years pending Internal Advisory Committee Review.

Rules

- All projects must have a minimum of two co-leaders: one from UPR and one from MD Anderson.
- Co-leaders must be at the level of assistant professor or above; one co-leader should have seniority.
- Applications must have a Career Development and Mentorship Plan for any junior research personnel (faculty, post-docs, and graduate students).

IMPORTANT DATES:

Letter of Intent (Required) Due: January 15, 2016

Proposal Submission Due: April 8, 2016

Proposal Selection: June 17, 2016

Estimated Starting Date: September 1, 2016

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A complete application will include:

Letter of Intent – January 15, 2016

- Outline the following information: (1) brief project description and (2) UPR and MD Anderson faculty involved.
- Address to: Drs. Gabriel Lopez-Berestein and Marcia Cruz-Correa, Lead/Contact Principal Investigators
- Biographical Sketch Page (NIH format) for all key personnel

Pilot Application – April 8, 2016

- Title page including the title of the project, name of co-leaders from both institutions, and a brief abstract stating specific aims.
- Research Strategy up to 6 pages, which should include the following items: Significance; Innovation; Preliminary Studies (encouraged but not required); and approach.
- Career Development & Mentorship Plan for all junior faculty, post-docs and graduate students (2 pages, not included in 6 page limit)
- Any necessary certifications (Address all issues pertaining to human subjects, animal care and use, biosafety or hazardous chemicals in the research narrative.)
- Commitment letter: If project requires recruitment of human subjects, a clear strategy to meet accrual goals must be presented along with the signed commitment of participating physicians and/or institutions

Proposal Format

Use the most recent NIH 398 forms <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.

- Face Page (under #2, list “U54 Internal Application” for title)
- Form Page 2
- Form page 4 with justification (for each institution)
 - Pilot Projects up to \$120,000 in direct costs per year for up to 2 years.
 - A budget MUST be labeled and submitted for each institution (e.g., MD Anderson budget, UPR budget). Funds should be split between the two institutions.
- Biographical Sketch Page (NIH format) for all key personnel

Submission Information: Submit Letter of Intent and completed application (pdf file) to:

- Evelyn Rivera (evelyn.rivera14@upr.edu; 787-772-8300 ext. 1102), and Sherri De Jesus (sdejesus@mdanderson.org; 713-563-0569/713-563-0570).

Review Process: The Internal Advisory Committee will review all proposals and submit their recommendations to the Principal Investigators for final decisions.

Evaluation Criteria: Projects will be evaluated based on the:

- qualifications of the Co-Leaders for the proposed project,
- merit and importance of the project,
- degree to which the project contributes to the priorities and objectives of the partnership,
- adequacy of the Career Development and Mentorship plan,
- plan for interaction between the two institutions, and
- potential to develop into a full U54 project or compete for external funding in 3 years or less.