

**PURPOSE:** The UF Health Cancer Center (UFHCC) offers funding for pilot projects to encourage new collaborative cancer research. Such interactions can bring new and exciting directions that focus on new collaborations and new lines of research. The purpose of this mechanism is to provide developmental support for promising cancer-focused research projects that propose innovative research across multiple disciplines for a better understanding of the biology, etiology, detection, prevention, treatment, and control of cancer.

The goals of the UFHCC Pilot Project Grant Program are to:

- Provide developmental support for promising cancer-focused collaborative research projects with a well-defined major objective or theme;
- Create synergies and lasting collaborations between cancer researchers that will lead to impactful publications and stimulate collaborative grant applications for future Federal or other peer-reviewed extramural cancer research funding.

### **AWARD AMOUNT & DURATION**

- The maximum award for these grants is \$70,000 direct costs. No IDC is allowed. Funds may be used for support personnel, supplies, core services, and other expenses. PI, Co-PI and Co-Investigator salary support is not allowed.
- The award is for a period of 12 months, with the expectation that all funds will be expended during this term.
- Up to 4 proposals will be funded per cycle, pending the quality of science and availability of funds.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Projects must be aligned with UFHCC's mission, and thus must be cancer-focused.
- Each project must include an interdisciplinary collaborative team of two Principal Investigators, each of whom substantively contribute to the research. At least one of the collaborating PIs should be a Cancer Center member. Collaborations between investigators of the three UFHCC research programs, [Cancer Population Sciences \(CPS\)](#), [Cancer Therapeutics & Host Response \(CTHR\)](#) and [Mechanisms of Oncogenesis \(MOO\)](#), are strongly encouraged.
- Applications to support clinical trials will not be considered.
- Faculty at all academic stages are eligible to apply.
- Newly recruited Assistant Professors are eligible to apply, whereas newly recruited senior faculty with start-up packages from the cancer center are not eligible.
- A collaborating PI can submit only one project during a funding cycle, but may be listed as a Co-Investigator on more than one application.
- Faculty seeking to develop multiple PI R01s or P01s may submit applications to generate preliminary data to support their proposals.
- Previous UFHCC Awardees may apply.
- Proposed projects must not fall within the specific aims of a currently funded project of any of the collaborating investigators.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Letters of Intent:** Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required prior to submission of an application. Applications will not be accepted if the researcher has not submitted a LOI. However, applicants who submit a LOI are not bound to submit an application, and a decision to submit a LOI and not submit an application will not impact future applications.

- LOIs must include the following information (2 pages maximum):
  - Name, address, telephone number & email address of the Principal Investigators;
  - Names & affiliations of other research personnel;
  - Descriptive title of proposed research;

- General audience abstract (no more than 250 words), briefly describing the proposed research question being addressed, its significance, the need for pilot data, and the plan to apply for project funding at the end of the pilot phase.

**LOIs are due by October 23, 2017 and should be emailed to [ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu).** All LOIs will be administratively reviewed for eligibility and scientifically promising projects will be invited to submit full proposals.

**Required Application Components:** Researchers must submit an application under the same title that was specified in the LOI. A complete application package **must** contain all the required items listed below and be combined into one PDF. Use 0.5-inch margins and Arial 11 point font. Proposals that are incomplete or otherwise do not follow instructions will be returned to the investigator without review.

Section	Category	Page Limit	Comment
A	General Project Information	1	Required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name, address, telephone number &amp; email address of the Principal Investigators.</li> <li>• Names &amp; affiliations of other research personnel.</li> <li>• Descriptive title of proposed research</li> <li>• Keywords</li> </ul>
B	General Audience Abstract	250 words	Required.
C	Scientific Abstract	250 words	Required. This is the scientific description of the project.
D	Long-term Vision Multi-PI Plan	1	Required. Future plans to leverage research results for project growth. Required. Rationale & Collaborations (How the PIs interact and coordinate the work between labs.)
E	Project Narrative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific Aims (1 page)</li> <li>• Research Plan (2 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significance</li> <li>○ Innovation</li> <li>○ Approach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3	Required.
F	Literature Cited	No limit	Required. NIH format.
G	Budget & Budget Justification	No limit	Required. The budget must explain the planned spending. Use budget template. Provide budget for each collaborating PI.
H	Biosketches	5 per person	Required for PIs. NIH format.
I	Other Support		Required. NIH format. All other active & pending awards for the Principal Investigators.

**Applications are due by November 30, 2017 and should be emailed to [ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu).**

**REVIEW PROCESS:** A Special Emphasis Panel of UFHCC faculty will be assembled to review submissions. Applications will be evaluated on:

- Significance, methodological approach, scientific merit and innovation;
- How the science will ultimately translate into better understanding of the biology, diagnosis, treatment, prevention or control of cancer;
- Potential for identifying risk factors, developing prevention strategies, improving treatment outcomes or survivorship;
- Multidisciplinary investigative team;
- Relevance to the cancer center's mission and goals;
- Potential to result in Federal or other peer-reviewed funding.
- Budget and timeline appropriateness.

**Questions:** Please contact our Research Administration Core team at [ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:ResearchAdmin@cancer.ufl.edu).