

University of Maryland
Marlene & Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center
FY22 Pilot Grant Program
Applications due May 15, 2021

Types of Awards Available

- 1. Payline Program Awards**
- 2. Collaborative Program Awards**
- 3. Community Informed Research Award**
- 4. Community Outreach & Engagement Supplement**
- 5. Fellowship Research Awards**

1. Payline Program Awards:

Applications will be accepted from Program in Oncology members who have submitted research applications to cancer-related funding agencies (e.g., NCI, ACS, VA) that were rejected but scored well following peer-review, as reflected by both the score and review comments. The purpose of this award is to provide funding to support additional pilots, data analysis or experimentation requested during the peer-review that will ultimately support resubmission and funding of the application. Priority will be given to NCI applications. Applicants must provide the peer review score and the review comments as part of the justification request for pilot funding. Program Leaders will prioritize applications and final funding decisions will be made by UMGCCC Leadership. Inter-programmatic collaborations are strongly encouraged. The number of final awards will depend on the size and scope of the proposals. Awards will range from \$25,000 to as much as \$50,000 with strong justifications. When appropriate, at least 25% of the proposed budget must be devoted to use of Cancer Center Shared Services. Applicants that elect not to employ the use of a Shared Service must include adequate scientific justification. The Shared Services portion of the budget will be administered by the UMGCCC Shared Services staff.

Review Criteria:

- Significance – Does the research address an important cancer related scientific question and support the mission of the UMGCCC? Will support lead to peer-reviewed funding and/or publications?
- Approach – Are the design and methods appropriate and can the research be completed within the proposed time frame?
- Innovation – Are the scientific questions and/or approach novel? Is the proposed project responsive to the original critique received during peer review?
- Investigators – Are the researchers qualified and does the team include one or more collaborations among PIO research programs?
- Environment – Is the environment supportive and are UMGCCC Shared Services used?

2. Collaborative Program Awards:

Program Leaders are responsible for selecting the application that is most likely to form the basis for a Multi-PI R01, U01, P01, SPORE or other similar cancer-based NIH/NCI application, and for determining the likelihood of a successful NIH application. Specific plans must be included that promote collaborative research among the PI's, including any ongoing/current collaborations, plans for joint lab meetings, and co-authored publications. A clear plan for how the successful completion of the proposed studies will set the foundation for submitting a viable grant, when the grant is expected to be submitted and to what funding opportunity the grant(s) will be submitted to is requested. Inter-programmatic collaborations are strongly encouraged. Final funding decisions will be made by UMGCCC Leadership. Applications that address recently released /NCI announcements will receive priority:

The number of final awards will depend on the size and scope of the proposals. The maximum award will be \$75,000 for one additional year. At least 25% of the proposed budget must be devoted to use of Cancer Center Shared Services. Applicants that elect not to employ the use of a Shared Service must include

adequate scientific justification. The Shared Services portion of the budget will be administered by the UMGCCC Shared Services staff. UMGCCC will provide the administrative support required to assist in arranging meetings and supporting required logistical infrastructure needs, all of which should be outlined in the application.

Review Criteria:

- Significance – Does the research address an important cancer related scientific question and support the mission of the UMGCCC? Will support lead to a Multi-PI, U01, P01, SPORE or similar application for external funding? Will it lead to peer-reviewed publications?
- Approach – Are the design and methods appropriate and can the research be completed within the proposed time frame?
- Innovation – Are the scientific questions and/or approach novel?
- Investigators – Are the researchers qualified and does the team include one or more collaborations among PIO research programs?
- Environment – Is the environment supportive and are UMGCCC Shared Services used?

Community Outreach & Engagement Awards

Background

The National Cancer Institute recently elevated the emphasis on Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) activities in NCI-designated cancer centers. COE activities moving forward will play a key role in CCSG review criteria. Centers that can demonstrate ways in which community voices informed cancer research will be considered responsive to the review criteria. While COE often has a natural linkage to some Population Science research, the connection between COE and basic and clinical research Programs is nascent. NCI-designated Cancer Centers are now evaluated on the extent to which ALL research Programs incorporate COE. Centers are expected to show specific ways in which engagement with community members in the catchment area has informed or shaped the research conducted in the Programs. This goes beyond statistical catchment area cancer relevance and includes basic, clinical, and translational research.

An example of COE bidirectional research influence could include a new grant proposal or other similar research activity in which the area of study, specific aims, research methods, dissemination plan or other aspect was directly informed by interaction with community member(s). Other examples could include a secondary analysis of study data that was informed by community input, or a peer-reviewed manuscript in which community input influenced the way that study findings were interpreted or otherwise disseminated. This bidirectional relationship between communities and Cancer Centers promotes an understanding of cancer that is more holistic (bench-to-bedside-to-community), transdisciplinary, encompassing of different views and experiences, culturally sensitive, and reflective of mutual goals.

3. Community-informed Research Award

This funding opportunity is designed to foster integration of COE into one or more UMGCCC research Programs. We invite applications led by a UMGCCC member in Molecular and Structural Biology, Experimental Therapeutics, Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy, or Hormone-related Cancers. Population Science members are not eligible to apply unless the Principal Investigator's research to date has no demonstrated community-engaged aspect.

Expectations

Applicants should propose a process to incorporate patient or community member input into the proposed research. This can include plans for communication/discourse with community members (e.g., meetings, interviews, surveys, clinical observations) or other methods as appropriate. Applications should specify the target community member(s) or partner(s) to be involved, how they will be involved, and should speculate ways in which community involvement may inform the proposed research. Applications should have a clear endpoint deliverable such as a new grant application, peer-reviewed manuscript, or other research product that would be submitted subsequently as a result of this pilot research. Applicants are encouraged to use the pilot data as the basis for an NCI grant application within 12 months of pilot study completion. Because community-engagement is a time-intensive investment, applications should allow fiscal support for both the study team and community partner(s), as well as supportive staff if appropriate. *Applicants are encouraged to contact the*

UMGCCC Office of Community Outreach and Engagement for support or technical assistance with application development (cholt14@umd.edu, Cheryl L. Knott, UMGCCC Associate Director for COE).

One year of support will be provided with a budget of up to \$50,000. Up to two awards are expected to be made.

Community-informed Research Award Application Components:

2 page maximum single spaced, excluding references, budget, biosketches, and letters of support

- Study title
- PIO Program(s)
- Principal Investigator(s)
- Other Key Personnel
- Brief scientific background
- Specific aim(s)
- Purpose/goal of the proposed community involvement
- Description of the target community member(s) or partner(s) to be involved and brief description of how they will be involved
- Specify the expected research deliverable
- Specify the target NCI subsequent funding opportunity and mechanism
- Budget (NIH 398 format)
- A current Biosketch, including Other Support of Key Personnel – use NIH style
- References if applicable

The application must demonstrate how funds will be spent by June 30, 2022.

- Unspent funds cannot be carried forward.
- Applicants are responsible for cost overruns.
- Any expenses that are determined to be unallowable will become the responsibility of the recipients.
- F&A costs (indirect costs) will not be provided.
- Reasonable staff salaries and community engagement expenses will be funded.
- Funding requests for travel, memberships, subscriptions and telecommunications are not permitted.
- Applicants are solely responsible for having appropriate institutional approvals (IRB, IACUC, EHS, etc.) before projects are undertaken.

Scientific questions should be addressed to Cheryl Knott at cholt14@umd.edu

4. Pilot Supplement for Community Engagement in Research

Background

This supplemental funding opportunity is designed to incorporate community engagement into pilot research proposals submitted by UMGCCC members. We invite applications led by a UMGCCC member in Molecular and Structural Biology, Experimental Therapeutics, Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy, or Hormone-related Cancers. Population Science members are not eligible to apply unless the Principal Investigator's research to date has no demonstrated community-engaged aspect.

Expectations

Applicants should propose a process to incorporate patient or community member input into the proposed research. This can include plans for communication/discourse with community members (e.g., meetings, interviews, surveys, clinical observations) or other methods as appropriate. Because community-engagement is a time-intensive investment, applications should allow fiscal support for both the study team and community partner(s). *Applicants are encouraged to contact the UMGCCC Office of Community Outreach and Engagement for support or technical assistance with application development (cholt14@umd.edu, Cheryl L. Knott, UMGCCC Associate Director for COE).*

Supplemental application Components:

1 page maximum single spaced description of the community stakeholders and research partnership, including expected involvement of the community members in all research phases

Applicants can request additional pilot funds up to 25% of their total pilot project budget. Up to two supplements are expected to be made.

5. Fellowship Research Award:

Awards are available to 2nd and 3rd year Hematology/Oncology M.D. Fellows only. The goal of the project will be to publish an abstract, author a paper or navigate the steps required to initiate an Investigator Initiated Trial. Distinct research projects may also be proposed. Projects may be proposed in Outcomes Research, Disparities Research or feasible translational research. Translational research projects should include collaborations with current M.D. or Ph.D. UMGCCC faculty. Progress will be monitored by each Fellow’s Mentorship Research Committee. Infrastructure to support the project (clinical research staff support, biostatistics etc.) will be provided by UMGCCC.

Projects may span two years with funding for the second dependent upon progress during the first year. At least one award of \$5,000 will be made.

Review Criteria:

- Significance – Does the research address an important cancer related scientific question and support the mission of the UMGCCC? Will it lead to a publication, an abstract or support an application for external funding?
- Approach – Are the design and methods appropriate and can the research be completed during Fellowship?
- Innovation – Are the scientific questions and/or approach novel?
- Investigators – Does the team include one or more MD/PhD faculty members and a Mentorship Research Committee?
- Environment – Is the environment supportive and are UMGCCC shared services (Clinical Research Office, Shared Services, biostatistics, etc.) used?



All Applications - Application Components:

5 page maximum single spaced (except COE applications), excluding references, budget and biosketches

- Title
- PIO Program
- Principal Investigator(s)
- Other Key Personnel
- Specific Aims and Hypotheses
- Background and Significance – include rationale, significance, innovation, how results will support an application for external funding
- Scientific Approach – include overall design, participant eligibility, data collection, intervention (if appropriate), data analysis plan, statistical power/sample size justification, strengths and limitations
- Budget (NIH 398 format) – faculty salary is not allowable
- A current Biosketch, including Other Support of Key Personnel – use NIH style
- Scores and reviewer comments for Payline Program Applications
- References

All Applications - Award Conditions: Applications that span more than one PIO research program are **strongly** encouraged.

The application must demonstrate how funds will be spent by June 30, 2022.

- Unspent funds cannot be carried forward.

- Applicants are responsible for cost overruns.
- Any expenses that are determined to be unallowable will become the responsibility of the recipients.
- F&A costs (indirect costs) will not be provided.
- Reasonable staff salaries will be funded. Faculty salary will not be permitted.
- Funding requests for travel, memberships, subscriptions and telecommunications are not permitted.
- Applicants are solely responsible for having appropriate institutional approvals (IRB, IACUC, EHS, etc.) before projects are undertaken.

All Applications - Reporting:

The Cigarette Restitution Fund and the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant, both of which fund this initiative, include very strict reporting requirements. Be sure to carefully cite & track publications, research applications, patents, inventions, collaborations, etc. that come to fruition as a result of this funding. A one to two page final scientific report **will** be required.

Questions should be addressed to Bob Mitchell, UMGCCC Associate Director for Administration at x86834 or rmitchell1@umm.edu

Due Date: 05/31/2021. Email PDF applications to Sarah Laye, Director of Grants & Contracts at slaye@som.umaryland.edu