

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Cancer and Aging Pilot Project Award

Maximum Award: \$50,000

Letter of Concept Deadline: May 2, 2016

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC) and the Center on Aging seeks applications from University of Iowa researchers to support development of research on the relationship between cancer and aging. This includes planning grants for preparation of larger research proposals.

The intent of this process is to assist investigators in the design and initiation of innovative research projects that have a high likelihood of leading to external peer-reviewed funding and to establish ongoing collaborations among researchers interested in studying cancer.

The pilot project duration is one year, with the potential for additional funding based on competitive re-evaluation after the first project period and completion of evaluation milestones. The funding level for each pilot project may vary. The HCCC will facilitate protocol development support and ongoing biostatistics consultation at a reduced charge for cancer center members.

Eligibility:

- All faculty and research scientists conducting independent research are invited to apply.
- The P.I. or a co-investigator must be a member of the HCCC or Center on Aging.
- Collaborative efforts including investigators with varied backgrounds are encouraged.

Application Process:

Investigators interested in applying for funding are encouraged to discuss their research with HCCC/Center on Aging leadership, collaborate with HCCC/Center on Aging researchers, and make use of HCCC core resources. A maximum of \$50,000 dollars may be awarded. Budgets of \$10,000 or less require only a letter of concept (Step 1). Budgets over \$10,000 will require a full proposal if letter of concept is deemed meritorious.

All projects must comply with the NIH policies concerning research on human subjects. Documentation of protocol approval by the appropriate institutional committee and HIPAA regulations will be required at the appropriate time. Copies of all assurances and certifications must be given to the HCCC administration before funds can be allocated.

Step I. Letter of Concept: The letter-of-concept should include the following information:

- Overview of the proposed project, including hypotheses, approximate number of subjects, key study methods, and a study timeline.

- Area of expertise of principal investigator as well as collaborating investigators and staff.
- Potential of the project for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Clear indication of the relevance of the research to cancer and potential for at least translational application of the findings to or from community practice.
- Statement of how the proposed project will lead to full research projects with funding potential.
- Budget Amount
 - \$10,000 or less, include budget justification of how money is to be used.
 - *If the amount falls between \$10,000-\$50,000*, provide requested amount and a full proposal (by invitation) will be required- see Step II.
- The 1-2 page electronic-letter should be addressed to Dr. Elizabeth Chrischilles.
- The letter should be e-mailed to Brad McDowell at bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu.

Deadline: May 2, 2016

Notification Date to submit Full Proposal: It is anticipated that applicants will be notified in May or June of 2016.

Step II. Invited Full Proposal: Investigators with meritorious letters-of-concept that meet program goals will be invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals must include:

1. **Title Page:** A cover page that lists the primary investigator, his/her degrees, title of the research project, departmental address, phone number, and e-mail address.
2. **Summary-Abstract:** In no more than one page, this section shall include the project title, specific aims, methods, and anticipated outcomes.
3. **Research Proposal Narrative:** The recommended page length of this portion of the full proposal is four and limited to a maximum of five single-spaced pages (not including citations). No font size smaller than 11-point shall be used. The proposal should include the following:
 - a. Specific aims (no more than one paragraph).
 - b. Brief rationale for the project and summary of prior relevant work.
 - c. Relevance to issues surrounding cancer and aging.
 - d. Expanded version of methods. Please include any particular challenges you anticipate. Note collaborations with other faculty, both inside and outside the institution. Note use of any HCCC shared resources. Also, include a brief timeline with project milestones.
 - e. Promise of future funding in the area of cancer and aging science (≥ 1 paragraph).
4. **Budget with Justification:** The section shall outline expenditures for the project (e.g., supplies, technical assistance, etc.). **Funds may not be used for travel or equipment.** With a strong rationale, up to \$10,000 may be requested for faculty salary support. Protocol development support and ongoing biostatistics consultation is available at no/low charge to successful applicants. Applicants may consult with Brad McDowell (bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu) to identify possible support from the Population Research Core for services such as database resources, sample selection, recruitment, Teleform design, database design and development, and specimen collection. Dr. McDowell can also advise on other HCCC Research Cores that may be relevant. Please remember that the total budget (steps 1 and 2) is not to exceed \$50,000. Investigators are strongly urged to plan appropriately.
5. **Biosketch and Research Support:** Please submit this information for the primary investigator and other key personnel in NIH format and within a four-page limit).

Review Criteria:

Letters of concept and invited proposals will undergo a formal peer-review process by an HCCC/Center on Aging review committee. Funding preference will be given to the most innovative projects on the leading edge of research that can be applied to both cancer and aging.

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- Relevance to issues concerning cancer and aging
- Scientific merit/quality, including adequacy of design and proposed statistical analyses and originality and innovativeness of the proposal
- Interdisciplinary collaborations with HCCC and Center on Aging members.
- Qualifications of the key personnel and their ability to complete the project as proposed
- Degree to which the project addresses an issue of significant importance within human subjects cancer research, including issues related to incidence, prevention, early detection, mortality, therapy, survival and quality of life
- Promise for the project to advance to a peer-reviewed, externally funded research project

Contacts:

- Contact Brad McDowell by phone (384-1768) or e-mail (bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu) with any questions.