



A National Cancer Institute
Designated Cancer Center

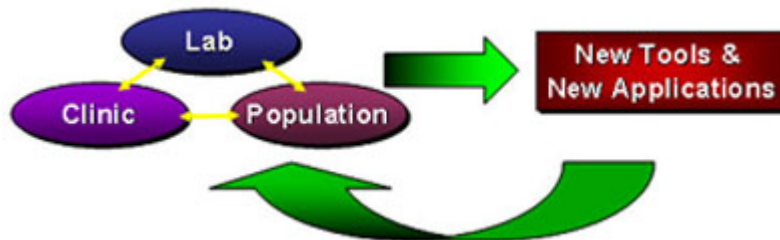
2009 Translational Pilot Research Request for Applications (RFA)

The Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) seeks applications from its members to stimulate the development of high-quality, interdisciplinary *translational cancer research* with direct application to cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment or care.

The primary goal of this RFA is to assist investigators in the initiation of innovative pilot translational research studies that will have a high likelihood of receiving external peer-reviewed funding. A second goal is to establish new or strengthen ongoing collaborations between laboratory-based programs, clinical investigators and prevention and control researchers within the HCC. Funds may not be requested to supplement ongoing funded research projects.

The term “translational research,” as used in this RFA, is consistent with the National Cancer Institute’s Translational Research Working Group definition: "Translational research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality." Studies that are strictly correlative or retrospective in nature, such as data mining, will be considered only if they are designed to lead to a clinically-based research study. Animal studies are allowed, but **only** if their relevance to the human disease under study is clearly described, and **only** if the project timeline for translating the results into studies on human cells or tissues is within a clearly defined and relatively short time frame (less than 2 years).

Translational Research



Applicants are strongly encouraged to include both basic researchers and those with relevant clinical expertise as Project Leaders, and to establish close collaborations between basic, clinical and prevention/control scientists as appropriate.

Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis, for up to \$40,000 per project. There will be 5-7 projects awarded.

Renewal for a second year may be possible for particularly meritorious projects with appropriate progress in the first year.

Investigators lacking access to laboratory space are encouraged to utilize the new HCC Translational Research Laboratory. This shared resource will provide scientific and technical expertise regarding research design, immunohistochemistry, nucleic acid extraction, real time PCR, immunoblotting, etc. Please contact Dr. Daniel Fernandes if you require further information. (Email: fernand@musc.edu; Phone: 843-792-1449)

2009 HCC Translational Pilot Research Request for Applications (RFA)

Eligibility:

- ▶ Junior, mid and senior-level faculty who are members of the HCC are eligible to apply
- ▶ Basic, clinical and prevention/control scientists are eligible to apply
- ▶ If PI is not a Cancer Center member, a brief letter of support from an HCC member must accompany the application; the HCC member sponsoring the application should be a project collaborator
- ▶ **Letter of Intent is required; after review, selected applications will be invited to submit a full proposal**

Application Procedure:

Step 1: Letter of Intent (LOI): A 2-page summary of the proposed project and investigator team is due by 4:00 pm, August 10, 2009. Previously funded investigators requesting a continuation of funding for a second year are also required to submit a LOI. LOIs should be emailed to Peggy Boehrig at boehrigp@musc.edu. They can be addressed to Daniel J. Fernandes, Ph.D., Associate Director of Translational Research, Hollings Cancer Center. The following information should be included in the 2 pages:

- ▶ Outline of the study plan (goal, hypothesis, specific aims, brief listing of study methods to be utilized)
- ▶ Description of the translational nature of the study
- ▶ Projected time line for the project
- ▶ Complete listing of the investigative team, their academic titles, primary departments and role on proposed project; note any planned use of HCC supported shared resources.

Dr. Fernandes along with a small committee of senior HCC researchers with a track record in translational research will review the Letters of Intent. Based on the merit of the planned studies and their conformity with the spirit of this RFA, up to 10 applicants will be asked to submit a full application. This notification will occur August 17, 2009.

Step 2: Submission of Full Application: The full application will be due by 4 p.m., September 28, 2009 and should include the following information. All of the following should be compiled into one PDF file and emailed to Peggy Boehrig at boehrigp@musc.edu

1. HCC Application Face Sheet. This face page will be emailed to you upon request to submit a full application.

2. Research Plan (six pages total):

A. Specific Aims (half-page maximum): State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the one year project period.

B. Significance to Cancer Research (half-page maximum): State the relevance of the proposed project to basic, clinical or prevention and control cancer research. Describe the translational research nature of the project.

C. Background and Preliminary Investigations (two pages maximum): Discuss the pertinent research findings that have been described in the scientific literature and how this proposal will add to these results. Also discuss any preliminary data relevant to this proposal that were obtained previously obtained by project investigators. .

D. Experimental Design and Methods (two pages maximum): Concisely present the experimental design and the methods to be used to accomplish the specific aims. Also indicate how the results will be interpreted and how they will lead to future investigations. Well-known methods and standard procedures may be described very briefly or referenced, but novel experimental approaches should be outlined in more detail. List any HCC Shared Resources to be used (<http://hcc.musc.edu/research/sharedresources/index.htm>).

E. Timeline (half page maximum) Applicant should provide a well defined timeline for completion of studies/experiments within the first year of the project; applicant may provide additional information on anticipated studies to be pursued if an additional year was funded.

F. Plans for Subsequent External Funding (half-page maximum): Describe plans for collaborative applications to be submitted to extramural agencies in the near future based on the proposed pilot research application. In the review, substantial weight will be given to the intellectual quality and feasibility of these plans along with the extent to which they continue to reflect collaborative research.

3. Appendix

A. References (one-page maximum)

B. Tables or Figures relevant to this proposal (two pages maximum)

C. Pertinent Recent Publications (three reprints maximum)

4. Detailed Budget and Justification:

Use PHS 398 form page 4 followed by a written justification. The budget maximum is \$40,000. **No faculty salaries should be included;** however, laboratory personnel, post docs, study coordinators, etc may be included. Include justification for all budget requests. No indirect costs allowed. The HCC reserves the right to reduce award amounts.

In most situations, concurrent submission of the proposal to an external funding agency is recommended and strongly encouraged. If the proposal is funded by the external agency, then the internal funding will cease when the alternative funding becomes available.

5. **Biosketches:** Provide NIH Biographical Sketch for the PI and all key personnel.

6. **Sponsorship letter:** include only for applicants who are applying who are not HCC members.

Review Process:

A panel of expert external reviewers will be identified to perform the full application critiques based on the information provided in the accepted Letters of Intent. Each application will be assigned to two external reviewers and will also be reviewed by the HCC Biostatistics Shared Resource. Review criteria will include:

- ▶ standard NIH criteria (significance, innovation, approach, investigative team and environment)
- ▶ translational nature/readiness of the project
- ▶ likelihood that preliminary results will lead to external peer-reviewed support
- ▶ the degree that the project involves interdisciplinary coordination and collaboration

The final award notices is expected to be released by November 1, 2009.

Other Important Notes:

1. All projects must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals (*e.g.*, IRB, Protocol Review Committee, etc). It will be imperative that time be built into the research plan to obtain these approvals.

2. Applicants are **not** required to route this internal application through the MUSC Office of Research and Sponsored Projects.
3. Awards will be made based on appropriateness of budget for proposed research up to \$40,000. However, only \$20,000 will initially be available. After a satisfactory six month review of the progress of the project, the remaining \$20,000 will become available.
4. Each funded PI will be asked to submit a brief mid-project year written progress report and present a brief update to the HCC Senior Leadership. Upon a successful review, the remaining funds will be authorized for the completion of the project. A final progress report will be required. If the applicant seeks an additional year of funding, a presentation may also be required.
5. All unspent funds at the end of the project period will be reallocated back to the HCC. “No cost extensions” will only be allowed in clearly justified incidences.
6. Indirects are not allowed on these pilot awards.

For More Information:

Contact Daniel J. Fernandes, PhD, HCC Associate Director of Translational Research

Email: fernand@musc.edu

Phone: 843-792-1449