REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: MELANOMA, PANCREATIC CANCER, GLIOBLASTOMA, LUNG CANCER, OVARIAN CANCER, METASTATIC PROSTATE CANCER, METASTATIC BREAST CANCER, ADULT LEUKEMIA RESEARCH, MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROMES, CACHEXIA IN CANCER, CANCERS WITH VIRAL ETIOLOGY (e.g., Merkel cell carcinoma), NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR TUMOR MONITORING AND – NEW THIS YEAR – LEIOMYOSARCOMA AND MULTIPLE MYELOMA

Bridge Project Teams: Teams must be composed of at least one Principal Investigator from the Koch Institute at MIT (or MIT faculty member) and at least one Principal Investigator from DF/HCC.

Award Amounts: There are three types of awards. The “traditional” Bridge Project Grant is $400,000 (total costs) per team per year for up to 2 years ($800,000 total). Funding for the project should be allocated in equal amounts to the Koch Institute/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Multiple awards will be granted; the number of awards is dependent on ongoing fundraising efforts. Footbridge Grants are $200,000 (total costs) per team per year for one year. These are intended to allow newly formed teams to strengthen their future Bridge Project application and obtain necessary preliminary data/proof of concept as well as become a “true” team. Expansion Bridge Grants are up to $750,000 per team (total costs) for one year and intended to support Bridge Project awardees to continue into the clinic (i.e. specifically designed for clinical trials).

Submission information:
Proposal Submission Date: October 22, 2015 by 5 p.m.
Submission Process:
  o Full applications should be submitted electronically to: ki-bridge@mit.edu
  o Email Notification is required by October 8, 2015 if you plan to submit a proposal (see below).

Finalists present to Bridge Project Review Team: December 17, 2015, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The team must be able to present (as a group) on this date if selected for Round II of review. Do not apply if all PIs are not able to be present on this day.

Project Start Date: ~ Spring 2016
Overview and Goal of the Bridge Project
The Koch Institute (KI)-Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) Bridge Project is designed to help bring the expertise of these two Centers to bear on complex translational problems in cancer research. A particular emphasis is placed on fostering joint approaches by engineers and cancer scientists, both basic and clinical/translational. This is a call for applications for collaborative research projects that focus on critical problems in the following cancer areas: Melanoma, Pancreatic Cancer, Glioblastoma, Lung Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, Metastatic Prostate Cancer, Metastatic Breast Cancer, Adult Leukemia, Myelodysplastic Syndromes and – new this year – Multiple Myeloma and Leiomyosarcoma, in addition to applications in cancer cachexia, viral-related cancers (e.g. Merkel cell carcinoma) and new technologies for tumor monitoring. Additional information on the Bridge Project including faculty presentations on unmet clinical needs and technology can be found at: http://ki.mit.edu/approach/bridge.

Eligibility
Teams must be composed of at least one Principal Investigator from the Koch Institute at MIT (or MIT faculty member) and at least one Principal Investigator from DF/HCC. All Principal Investigators must meaningfully participate in the project. Preference will be given to teams that are employing unique and highly innovative approaches, including the development of new technologies and a strong clinical connection. There has to be a strong justification as to why the pairing of the two institutions makes sense, and it has to feel like a real team. All applicants must be faculty members of their host institution.

Email Notification
Please notify us by email (ki-bridge@mit.edu) before October 8, 2015 if you plan to submit a Bridge Project proposal; provide a title, the names of the PIs and their affiliation (must be MIT faculty or a member of the DF/HCC), and a brief description of the project, indicating the cancer type and/or area (cachexia/viral induced/new technology for tumor monitoring) and type of award (Bridge Project Grant, Footbridge Grant, Expansion Bridge Grant). IMPORTANT NOTE: We ask for the notification to help us anticipate the number of proposals and the number of reviewers we will need. You will not receive an invitation to submit a full proposal - ALL can submit a proposal before 5 p.m. on October 22, 2015.

Proposal Submission Information (due October 22, 2015 before 5 p.m.)
The research proposal may not exceed five pages including figures and tables. The cover page, biosketches, budgets, and one page of literature citations do not count towards the page limit.
Format

- The full proposal should be submitted as a **single PDF document**.
- 12-point Cambria or 11-point Arial font and margins of 0.5 inches or greater
- Required components (please follow this order)
  - Cover Page: Include the title of the project, PI names, and project abstract
    - Cover page should also include the **email addresses of all team members**
  - Research Plan: Include Background and Significance, Specific Aims, and the Research Plan (not to exceed 5 pages, inclusive figures and tables)
  - NIH Biosketches for each PI, include Part A (Personal Statement)
  - Budgets will be requested later.
  - Literature Citations

The research proposal should clearly articulate the following:

- What is the primary unmet medical need you are addressing?
- What approaches do you intend to use, and why are they novel?
- What are the anticipated experimental challenges?
- What are the short- and longer-term goals of the research?
- What can be reasonably accomplished within the funding period?
- Why is the MIT-Harvard pairing critical, and how will this be a true team?
- What clinically translatable applications might emerge from this work now or in the near future? (Clearly demonstrate a clinical connection.)

**Resources and Budget**

Budgets for Bridge Project proposals should be allocated in equal amounts to the Koch Institute/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Budgets for “traditional” Bridge Project proposals are not to exceed $400,000 total costs (shared equally between the KI and the DF/HCC PI’s) per project per year. Funding may be requested for up to a two-year period, but the renewal at the end of year one is subject to performance review. Footbridge grants: one year, $200,000 total costs (shared equally between the KI and the DF/HCC PI’s). Expansion Bridge Grants: one year, up to $750,000, to enable a Phase I clinical trial.

You will be notified if your team is selected for Round II review on or around November 20th. **If your team is selected for Round II review (which require a team presentation on December 17, 2015) a detailed budget and justification will be required. Please contact the following Bridge Project grant administrators IMMEDIATELY for additional information about applicable F&A rates and for help with detailed budget preparation:**

- **DF/HCC administration for DF/HCC institutions:** Deborah Goff, Deputy Associate Director, Program and Operations Support, DF/HCC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, [deborah_goff@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:deborah_goff@dfci.harvard.edu)
- **Koch Institute/MIT administration for KI/MIT:** Mary Ellen Acone, Koch Institute’s Senior Financial Officer, [meacone@mit.edu](mailto:meacone@mit.edu)
We request that all applicants selected for Round II review email their detailed budgets to Deborah (DF/HCC) or Mary Ellen (KI/MIT) for their final review by December 8th (you will thus only have about two weeks to prepare your budget).

For Round II review, detailed budget requests and justifications must be submitted using template that will be provided by/for each institution. Funds may be used for research expenses, which may include salary and benefits for PIs and other research staff, supplies, and equipment. MIT and DF/HCC will apply F&A rates according to their established policies.

Progress Reports
Grantees must submit two Progress Reports per year: one after 6 months of funding and one at the end of the first year of funding. Progress will be measured against stated milestones and timelines. Second year funding will be contingent upon satisfactory review of the Progress Reports. An 18-month Report and a Final Progress Report are also expected. Teams should email ki-bridge@mit.edu when submitting a manuscript, when manuscripts are accepted, and when filing an invention disclosure.

Other Requirements
• The team must be able to present (as a group) on December 17th if selected for Round II of review. Do not apply if all PIs are not able to be present on this day.
• Members of the winning teams will/may be asked to attend/present at several other Bridge Project-related occasions (donor events) as well as participate in the next review cycle (2016).
• Bridge Project Funding MUST be acknowledged in publications, presentations, press releases, and invention disclosures.

Contact Information
Please direct questions to: ki-bridge@mit.edu
or
Anne Deconinck (anned@mit.edu)
Tyler Jacks (tjacks@mit.edu)
David Livingston (david_livingston@dfci.harvard.edu)