REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: MELANOMA and PANCREATIC, GLIOBLASTOMA, LUNG, OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

Award Amount: $375,000 (total costs) per team per year for up to 2 years ($750,000 total). We anticipate that multiple awards, depending on ongoing fundraising efforts.

Letter of Intent Due: October 15, 2012
Proposal Submission Date: October 31, 2012
Finalist(s) present to Bridge Review Team: December 3, 2012
Project Start Date: no later than June 1, 2013

Submission Information: LOIs and applications should be submitted electronically to: Mary F Heckbert (heckbert@mit.edu)

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 that wed new tools and methods from engineering-based disciplines with advances in cancer biology together with the translational expertise of clinical oncologists. This is a call for applications for collaborative research projects that focus on critical problems in 5 cancers (Melanoma, Pancreatic, Glioblastoma, Lung and Ovarian). Additional information on the Bridge Project including faculty presentations on unmet clinical needs and technology can be found: http://ki.mit.edu/approach/partnerships/bridge

Eligibility
All applications must be from a team composed of at least one member of Koch Institute at MIT (or other eligible MIT faculty member) and one member of DF/HCC. Teams with more than two PIs are welcomed. Each PI 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. All applicants must be faculty members (≥assistant professor) of their host institution. Faculty members who currently hold Bridge Project grants are not eligible to apply.

Number of applications per PI
In the 2012 proposal round, a Bridge Project Investigator can be a PI (or co-PI) on, at most, two concurrent Bridge Project grants and no Investigator can receive more than $187,500 total in a given year of funding. An individual can serve as a Consultant on any number of grants. Consultant positions do not receive funding and, thus, do not count toward the grant number or funding limits. However, each Bridge Project grant requires a one PI from MIT and one from the DF/HCC.

Letter of Intent (due October 15)
Submission of a one paragraph “Letter of Intent” is desired. It should include the names of the PIs and briefly describe the project. Letters of Intent should be submitted electronically to: Mary F Heckbert (heckbert@mit.edu).
Proposal Submission Information (due October 31, 2012)
The research proposal may not exceed five pages including figures and tables. Cover page, biosketches, budgets, and one page of literature citations do not count to the page limit.

Format
- 12 point Cambria or Arial font and margins of 0.5 inches or greater

Required Components
- Cover Page. Include the title of the project, PIs names, and project abstract
- NIH Biosketches for each PI. Include Part A (Personal Statement)
- Budgets and Budget Justifications. Using PHS 398 form pages submit one per institution with additional overall budget for the project
- Research Plan. Include Background and Significance, Specific Aims, and the Research Plan
- 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?
- What clinically translatable applications might emerge from this work now or in the future?

Resources and Budget
Funding for the project should be allocated in roughly equal amounts to the Koch Institute/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Budget requests and justifications must be submitted using PHS 398 form pages for each institution as well as an overall project budget for the full project period. 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. Applicants should inquire with their grants administrators (DF/HCC administration for DF/HCC institutions) for additional information about applicable F&A rates. 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. Budgets are not to exceed $375,000 total costs (shared between the KI and the DF/HCC PI’s) per project per year.

Progress Reports
Grantees must submit a progress report at the end of the first year of funding. Progress will be measured against stated benchmarks and timelines. Second year funding will be dependent on a satisfactory review of the Progress Report.

Contact Information
Please direct questions to:
Tyler Jacks (tjacks@mit.edu)
David Livingston (David_Livingston@dfci.harvard.edu)
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Dennis Lynch (dennis_lynch@dfci.harvard.edu)