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

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

Award Amount: $375,000 (total costs) per team per year for up to 2 years ($750,000 total). Funding for the project should be allocated in equal amounts to the Koch Institute/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Multiple applications are allowed, but the amount of total BRIDGE funding for a given faculty member should not exceed $187,500/year. Multiple awards will be granted; the final number is dependent on ongoing fundraising efforts.

Submission information:
Proposal Submission Date: October 1, 2014 by 5 pm

Submission Process:
  o Full applications should be submitted electronically to: ki-bridge@mit.edu  
  o Email Notification is required by September 15, 2014 if you plan to submit a proposal (see below).

Finalists present to Bridge Project Review Team: December 9, 2014, 11 am to 5.30 pm
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: ~ March 1, 2015
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, Glioblastoma, Lung, Ovarian, Metastatic Prostate, Metastatic Breast, Adult Leukemia, Myelodysplastic Syndromes and – new this year – 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 member of the Koch Institute at MIT (or MIT faculty member) and one member of 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 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. Faculty members who will already have Bridge Funding are not eligible to apply, unless the amount of total funding is less than $187,500/year.

Email Notification
Please notify us by email (ki-bridge@mit.edu) before September 15, 2014 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 new area (cachexia/viral induced/new technology for tumor monitoring). 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 pm on October 1, 2014.

Proposal Submission Information (due October 1, 2014 before 5 pm)
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
- 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 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, including figures and tables)
  - NIH Biosketches for each PI. Include Part A (Personal Statement)
  - Budgets. Use the budget form page provided. Submit one budget page for KI/MIT and one budget page for DF/HCC for each year (4 budget pages total). If you have more than 2 PIs at KI/MIT or at DF/HCC you may submit additional budget pages, but yearly total cannot exceed $187,500 at KI/MIT or DF/HCC.
  - 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
Funding for the project should be allocated in equal amounts to the Koch Institute/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Budgets are not to exceed $375,000 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. Multiple applications are allowed, but the amount of total BRIDGE funding for a given faculty member should not exceed $187,500/year.

You will be notified if your team is selected for Round II review on or around November 17. **If your team is selected for Round II review (with team presentation on December 9, 2014) 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
- **Koch Institute/MIT administration for KI/MIT**: Mary Ellen Acone, Koch’s Institute’s Senior Financial Officer, 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 1 (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 PHS 398 form pages 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/year, one after 6 months of funding, and one at the end of the first year of funding. Progress will be measured against stated benchmarks and timelines. Second year funding will be contingent upon satisfactory review of the Progress Report. An 18-month report and a final progress report are also expected.

**Other Requirements**
- The team must be able to present (as a group) on December 9 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 (2015).
- Bridge Funding must be acknowledged in publications, presentations, 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)
Dennis Lynch (dennis_lynch@dfci.harvard.edu)