2017 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Goal of the Bridge Project
The Koch Institute (KI)-Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) Bridge Project is designed to bring together the expertise of these two institutions to tackle complex translational problems in cancer research. The Bridge Project is dedicated to supporting joint approaches in basic and translational cancer research, led by multi-institutional teams of engineers, cancer scientists, and clinical investigators.

There are a number of important dates related to this application process. Please review the material here carefully.

Eligibility
• Teams must be composed of at least one Principal Investigator from the KI (or MIT) and at least one Principal Investigator who is a member of DF/HCC. All applicants must be faculty members of their host institution and must meaningfully participate in the project as a real team. Preference will be given to teams that are employing unique and highly innovative approaches and new technologies.

• Teams may submit proposals focused on any aspect of translational cancer research. Preference will be given to work related to issues of high unmet medical need, for which advances in and/or technologies for early detection, more accurate diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, and prevention are required.

• As has been true for other cancer types in the past, this year we have a special funding opportunity related to ileal carcinoids.

Award Types
There are three types of awards:

1. **Traditional Bridge Project Grants** are $400,000 (total cost) per team per year for up to 2 years ($800,000 total). Funding for the project should be allocated in equal amounts to the KI/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Funding may be requested for up to a two-year period. Renewal at the end of year one is contingent upon satisfactory scientific review of progress.

2. **Footbridge Grants** are $200,000 (total cost) per team per year for 1 year. Funding for the project should be allocated in equal amounts to the KI/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s). Footbridge grants allow newly formed teams to strengthen future Bridge Project applications and obtain necessary preliminary data/proof of concept, while forming connections to become a “true” team.

3. **Expansion Bridge Grants** are up to $750,000 per team (total cost) to support the initiation of a Phase I clinical trial or clinical application. Funding does not have to be allocated in equal amounts to the KI/MIT and DF/HCC.

Important Dates

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<td>9/25/17 by 5 pm</td>
<td>10/23/17 by 5 pm</td>
<td>12/15/17 (8 am-2 pm)</td>
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Submission information

Letter of intent:

Email ki-bridge@mit.edu by September 25, 2017 (by 5 pm) if you plan to submit a Bridge Project proposal. Provide a project title, the names of the PIs and their affiliations, the type of award you are applying for (Traditional, Footbridge, or Expansion Grant), and a brief description of the project. 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 23, 2017.

Proposal Application

Full applications should be submitted electronically to ki-bridge@mit.edu by October 23, 2017 (by 5 pm).

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):
  o Cover Page: include the title of the project, PI information (names, affiliations, email addresses)
  o Lay, public summary: a one page description of your project, which may be shared with potential funders (must not contain confidential information)
  o Research Plan: include Background and Significance, Specific Aims, and the Research Plan (not to exceed 5 pages inclusive of figures and tables; cover page, lay summary, biosketches, and citations do not count towards the page limit)
  o NIH Biosketches for each PI, include Part A (Personal Statement)
  o Literature Citations
  o Budget and justification will be requested for teams selected for Round II review

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 KI/MIT-DF/HCC 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.)

In person presentations/ Round II Review

1. Team Presentation: Round I Reviews are internal, based on proposal applications. Those teams that are selected for Round II Review will be invited to present their proposals, in person, in front of the Bridge Project Review Committee. You will be notified if your team is selected for Round II review by November 27. If selected, your team must be able to present (as a group) on December 15, 2017 (between 8 am and 2 pm). Do not submit a proposal application if all PIs are not able to be present on this day.

2. Budgets: If your team is selected for the Round II review, you will be required to submit a detailed budget and a budget justification by December 11, 2017 (9 am) to ki-bridge@mit.edu. We request that all applicants selected for Round II review email their detailed budgets to Deborah Goff (for the DF/HCC part
of the budget, deborah_goff@dfci.harvard.edu) or Mary Ellen Acone (for the KI/MIT part of the budget, meacone@mit.edu) for their administrative pre-review by December 4, 2017 (1 pm).

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. Special indirect cost rules apply to projects that are supported by gift funds.

**Additional Award Information**

- If selected for funding, teams will be required to submit progress reports every 6 months. Progress will be measured against stated milestones and timelines. Second year funding (for Traditional Bridge Project awardees only) will be contingent upon satisfactory review of the Progress Reports; an 18-month Report and a Final Progress Report are also required.
- Members of the funded teams may be asked to attend or present at several other Bridge Project-related occasions (donor events) as well as participate in the 2018 review cycle.
- Bridge funding must be acknowledged in publications, presentations, and invention disclosures. Please email ki-bridge@mit.edu when submitting a manuscript, when manuscripts are accepted, and when filing an invention disclosure.

**Contact Information**

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](http://ki.mit.edu/approach/bridge).

Please direct questions to: ki-bridge@mit.edu

or

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