Mechanism Purpose and Overview

The goal of this pilot project grant program is to provide the opportunity for early career faculty who are independent and self-directed to obtain preliminary results that will allow them to compete successfully for national research grants. Through this competition, five awards of $50,000 are available as follows:

- Three awards will be made in the areas of cancer biology, and/or the detection, treatment, and prevention of cancer, from outstanding basic, clinical, or population science proposals.
- Two additional awards will be dedicated to junior faculty members whose research aligns with the current special interest priorities of the ACS, which are “psychosocial and behavioral research, health policy or health services research, cancer in the poor and medically underserved, and childhood cancer.”

Pilot study proposals should focus on research that can lead to national, peer-reviewed research grants (for a list of NIH-NCI recognized “Organizations with Peer Review Funding Systems,” go to: http://cancercenters.cancer.gov/documents/PeerReviewFundingOrganizations508C.pdf).

Key Dates

- Posted Date: March 13, 2017
- Letter of Intent Due Date: Not Applicable
- Application Due Date: APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOON, MAY 12, 2017
  Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

Applicant Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are faculty members at Rutgers and Princeton University, who are within six years of their initial appointment (Assistant Professor or equivalent) that conduct cancer or cancer-related research, but do not currently have national peer-reviewed grants.
- Applicants must have the requisite time, space, and resources to successfully pursue a yearlong project.

Funding and Budget Information

Anticipated start date of funding is August 1, 2017. The maximum amount for each award can vary, but should not exceed $50,000 total costs for the year. It is expected that the Grantee will completely utilize the full amount of funding during the term of the award. The term of award is 12 months. All unspent funds at the end of the grant will be returned to the Cancer Institute.

Allowable costs include:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Domestic travel when necessary to carry out proposed research program
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their roles are to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member
- Equipment costing less than $2,000 (special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount)
- Registration fees at scientific meetings
Expenditures **not allowable** under this grant program are:

- Salary of principal investigator
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Indirect costs

**Terms of Award**

- During the proposal submission stage, an Endorsement Form or Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosures are not necessary. However, before any internal award funds are dispersed, an institutional Endorsement Form and Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) disclosure will be required.
- F&A or indirect costs are not allowable. Submission of an application indicates acceptance of this provision.
- All awards must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc.) before funds will be disbursed.
- Grantees will be required to submit a final report describing the results of their work, as well as related publications and funding. Acceptance of funds implies a firm commitment to provide the final report in a timely manner.
- Award recipients will be expected to participate in the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey, and attend local ACS events that feature this Pilot Project’s grantees.
- Publications resulting from research supported by this award should contain an acknowledgement of the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant and the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (P30CA072720).

**Selection Process**

Peer review of applications follows NIH procedures and scoring convention. All applications are evaluated and scored according to scientific merit and in accordance with this RFP. Primary and secondary subject-specific expert reviewers are assigned to each application and are expected to attend an in-person review group meeting. The reviewers each complete written NIH-style critique forms, provide their comments and a priority score to the entire review panel in person, and, with all members of the panel, discuss all applications scored. The final priority scores from each of the panel members are tallied and a summary of the discussion and the panel’s recommendations for funding are made to the Cancer Institute’s Research Leadership Council for review and to avoid overlapping funding.

**General Review Criteria**

One of the major goals of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey is to foster the development of cancer and cancer-related research. Another goal is to support the development of new approaches to the study, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of cancer. Therefore, all applications will be judged based on: research significance; scientific innovation; and impact of findings.

**RFP-Specific Review Criteria**

Commensurate with the goals of this specific funding mechanism, the priority criteria for support are new research projects by self-directed early investigators to obtain preliminary results that will allow them to compete for national research grants at the end of the award period. The proposals will also be judged based on the following criteria:

- Scientifically novel and has not had prior R01 or equivalent peer-reviewed funding;
- Cancer or cancer-related focus in cancer biology, detection, treatment or prevention; and
- Likeliness to lead to extramural research support within the short term.

**Application and Submission Information**

Application format should follow the R21 format for NIH (Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Resources and Environment), but have a shorter page limit (five pages, not including
the bibliography). An additional section of this application should outline how the data will be used for a grant application along with planned publications. A budget and budget justification is required. Please use the attached form for the application.

Sources of Funding Support
The pilot project grants awarded through this solicitation are supported by an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant award with matching funding provided by the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Email completed application and its components in a single PDF file to: cinjpilotprogram@cinj.rutgers.edu.

If you have any questions, please email them to cinjpilotprogram@cinj.rutgers.edu.