



Team Science Award Request for Applications

Purpose and Overview

The purpose of the Team Science Award is to stimulate the development of high-quality, multi-investigator (minimum of three) program project grants that will move forward to extramurally funded grant awards. Projects with translational potential are encouraged, but not mandatory. Inter-programmatic and inter-institutional teams are also highly encouraged.

Priority Areas of Funding for the Current Funding Cycle

Cancer relevant research from all areas of science are invited to apply to this RFA. **Collaborations between researchers who propose to study topics related to understanding or addressing cancer disparities, breast cancer, prostate cancer, or sarcoma will be prioritized, though proposals involving all cancer types are eligible.** Proposals that utilize MCW CC Shared Resources are encouraged.

Eligibility & Evaluation Criteria

Eligibility

- Proposed research must be cancer relevant.
- Each application submitted in response to this RFA must consist of at least three research projects and an Administrative Core. The projects must share a common central theme, focus, and/or overall objective.
- Each team must comprise at least three investigators, and each investigator must serve as a PI on one of the component research projects.
- MCW faculty members are eligible to apply (includes VBRI investigators).
- Future external funding proposals leveraging the data from a Team Science pilot award must be submitted through MCW.
- As a general rule, research can take place and expenditures incurred only at MCW, Children's Wisconsin, Children's Research Institute, Froedtert Hospital, Versiti BRI, or the Zablocki VAMC. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for programs with significant involvement of another institution.
- The overall PI(s) must have a strong track record of peer-reviewed funding (active R01 grant or equivalent).

Evaluation

Each full application will be assigned to internal and external reviewers who have substantial expertise in cancer research and in reviewing programmatic, center-level grants.

Review criteria include

- Standard NIH criteria (significance, innovation, approach and investigative team);
- Likelihood that preliminary results will lead to external peer-reviewed funding;
- Program project integration (see Approach instruction; synergy, leadership, strength of the investigators, joint productivity, potential impact of the proposed research);
- Participation in CC programs (*e.g.*, attend program meetings, participate in grant review panels, participate in recurring seminars or symposia);
- A well thought-out "Future Funding Plan" (see instructions) describing how funds will provide data that is critical to future extramural grant application(s);
- When appropriate, describe how the research may ultimately produce IP (intellectual property, like patents).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult a biostatistician when developing the research design and methods of their proposals. Learn more on the [Biostatistics Shared Resource web page](#).

Budget: \$150,000 per year for up to two years

Application Instructions

(Please see the [MCW Cancer Center website](#) for additional information and forms.)

- **Application Format:** Use standard 11-point font, single space, and half-inch margins throughout the application. Consecutively number all pages.
- **Cover letter.** To initiate, please visit the [Faculty Collaboration Database](#) website and sign in so that certain fields can be auto-populated. Include project title, investigators and affiliations. Combine (concatenate) the cover page produced with the remainder of your application in a PDF file for submission (see below).
- **Scientific Abstract.** Provide a summary of the overall proposal, followed by summaries of each individual project. The summary of the overall proposal and the individual projects should each be 250 words or less.
- **Lay Abstract.** Provide a brief summary of the proposed research project in terms that people who do not have prior knowledge about the subject can understand. If funded, this abstract will be distributed to the funding source and can be used in written correspondence with donors and interested parties. The application should include a lay abstract for the overall proposal as well as each individual project (200-word limit per abstract).
- **Response to Reviewers** (if applicable; for overall program). For previously submitted proposals, please include reviewer comments and describe key changes that have been made in response. (1-page limit for overall project)
- **Overall Program Goals and Specific Aims.** Summarize the proposed research program including Specific Aims for the program project as a whole. If inter-institutional, explain why collaboration between the collaborating institution and MCW is important to achieve program goals and how it increases the likelihood of future extramural funding. (2-page limit)
- **Program-Related Publications.** List relevant publications by team members, bolding all member names in the author lists. (does not count against page limits)
- **For Each Project**
 - **Response to Reviewer**(i)-2 ll a8933 -1./TT1 1 Tfnpp (i)-2 (ke)4c (nc)4 (rb)-2 (s)-3 (poF(n)2 (r)3 (c)4 (2 (

- **Budget:** Use PHS 398 form page 4 located on the [Application for a Public Health Service Grant](#) web page followed by a Budget Justification. There must be an individual budget for each project. The budget cap is \$150,000 direct costs per year for the **entire proposal**. No indirect costs are allowed. No faculty salaries, student tuition and fees, or equipment should be included. Faculty effort related to this award must be listed and cost shared. Salary or stipend support for laboratory personnel, RAs, postdoctoral fellows, and students must be included and cost shared. Salary or stipend support for laboratory personnel, RAs, postdoctoral fellows, and students must be included and cost shared. Salary or stipend support for laboratory personnel, RAs, postdoctoral fellows, and students must be included and cost shared.

Program Expectations

- Publication or presentation of results in a national forum
- Submission of a PPG or equivalent center-level grant application within 18 months of project completion
- Year 2 funding is contingent on submission of an annual progress report (month 11) showing satisfactory progress toward project goals.
- Final report is required upon project completion, including an outline of project results and progress toward PPG application.
- Project leaders of awarded Team Science programs may be required to serve on pilot study sections for three years.