

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

ANNOUNCEMENT

“Near-Miss” NIH R01 Initiative

Pilot project funding for cancer focused research submitted to the NIH

Purpose: To provide funding to support cancer focused PI-directed applications to the National Institutes of Health with high potential for obtaining external funding that **have been reviewed once and missed the NIH pay line**. The goal is to increase cancer focused NIH funding base at IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center. Non-NCI applications should have significant cancer relevance.

Important Note: Investigators wishing to apply to this funding mechanism must first submit their project to the IU External Resubmission Grant opportunity (<https://research.iu.edu/funding-proposals/funding/opportunities/support-program/index.html>) for funding consideration. If the project is not funded at the University level, an investigator can submit the project to the Cancer Center’s Near-Miss initiative for funding consideration.

Eligibility:

- **Full & Associate Level Cancer Center members ONLY:**
 - Submitted an NIH R01, U01, R42, R44, P01 or SPORE.
 - R01 application that scored equal to or below a **30%** and are re-submitting the proposal to NCI /NIH (i.e. A1s only)
 - For an R42 or R44 Phase II Grant (STTR/SBIR) submitted to the NCI/NIH, a score equal to or below **40**.
 - For P01, SPORE, other R01 institutes applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The abstract and specific aim page must describe cancer relevance of the project
- Submit request for Cancer Center funding only one time per grant.

Interested?

*Investigators wishing to apply to this funding mechanism **must first submit a draft cover letter and letter from the department chair (described below)** to one of the Cancer Center’s Translational Research Coordinators (Crystal Baker and Kaitlin Evans) for approval by the Cancer Center’s executive committee before working with the Coordinator to submit a full application. **For non-NCI applications, cancer relevance will also be evaluated.***

Notice of Intent package materials must include:

- A cover letter describing the rationale for the request and anticipated date of external grant resubmission.
 - For non-NCI applications, cancer relevance should be addressed in the cover letter.
- A letter from the department chair of the PI attesting to repay the Cancer Center the amount of pilot funding awarded through this mechanism, should the PI receive pilot funding **and** is awarded external funding of their resubmission (A1 grant).

Full application submission materials:

- A 1-page proposal for use of the pilot funding to include clear plans for how the pilot funding will be used to address reviewer critiques
- A **timeline and/or map** (via ITRAC mechanism) for accomplishing the proposed work and identified benchmarks necessary for high likelihood for achieving a fundable score upon new submission (to be completed with Crystal or Kaitlin)
- A proposed budget and justification for the funding. Maximum allowable amount for R01, R42 and R44 grants is \$50K with P01 and SPORE funding amounts evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- Specific Aims page of the originally submitted external grant application
- The external reviewer critiques of the application with score and percentile.
The proposed responses to those critiques and plans on how the application will be improved for resubmission.
- If feedback is provided from your submission to the IU External Resubmission Grant mechanism, please include a copy of this feedback at the end of your application package.

Review Process

- Review of application and funding will be performed by a committee comprised of the Cancer Center's program leaders and a final review for determination of funding will be performed by the Cancer Center's executive committee.
- Applications must be to the NIH. No exceptions.
- Submission can be at any time.
- The review committee will consider the overall probability of future funding for the project as reflected in the priority score, reviewer critiques, response of the PI to those critiques, and how the application will be modified for resubmission.
- Additionally, evaluation will include demonstrated ongoing efforts of the PI in obtaining funding for the project (e.g. list of grant applications submitted within the past year), and the level of involvement of the PI in the Cancer Center. Each application will be considered on its' own merit.

Post-award management

After an award is made, an interim progress report will be required to determine if the funds are being used as originally proposed, milestones are being achieved and the timeline is on target.

Contact information:

Crystal Baker (crybanks@iu.edu) and Kaitlin Evans (kcondron@iu.edu) for submission support (mapping/timeline) or Mark R. Kelley (mkelley@iu.edu) for RFA inquires.

Note: A link to application submission portal will be provided to the PI upon approval of Notice of Intent to apply.