

## Indiana University Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

### REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

#### *Cancer Prevention and Control Pilot Research Awards*

The IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center (IUSCCC) and the Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC) program are inviting applications from member investigators that focus on one of the program themes: 1) risk reduction/early detection; or 2) symptom science/survivorship. We encourage: 1) early investigators who have not yet received R-level funding to develop an application as a mentored grant; 2) applications that propose inter-programmatic, collaborative projects that will lead to an R01 or equivalent application; and 3) applications that include collaborators from other IUSCCC Research Programs (EDT, TMM or HHM).

**Projects will be funded for one year and up to \$50,000 based on project need.** Preference will be given to projects that address cancers with the highest mortality rates (lung, breast, colon) or reducing cancer disparities in our catchment area.

**Intent to Apply Email Notification is due February 23, 2024:** A short email notification specifying the project title, aims, and co-investigators must be submitted via email to Tracy Winkle ([tawinkle@iu.edu](mailto:tawinkle@iu.edu)) by 5pm on February 23, 2024. The notification will be used to ensure consistency with the goals of the RFA and to select reviewers.

**Final applications: Due by April 9, 2024:** The body of the application must not exceed four (4) pages, and the format with suggested page limits is outlined below. Proposals need to follow NIH guidelines as described below.

- A. **Background & Specific Aims** (4-page limit starts here): *Problem, aims and hypotheses, expected outcomes*
- B. **Significance:** *Importance of problem, gaps in prior research, how the proposed research increases scientific knowledge, and the potential to lead to future funding*
- C. **Innovation:** *Novel theoretical concepts, approaches, and/or methods used*
- D. **Approach:** *Overall strategy and methods including sample, eligibility criteria, recruitment, data collection, measures, interventions (if applicable), and theory*
- E. **Plans for application to external funding** (4-page limit ends here)
- F. **Budget:** *A detailed budget and justification must be attached. Proposals should not include percent effort (salary) for the Principal Investigator.*
- G. **Biosketches:** *All investigators*
- H. **Timeline:** *Project timeline if funded*

**Submission Process:** Approved applicants will be sent the submission link to complete their applications in WebCAMP. The application form and the WebCAMP users' guide are linked on the [Indiana CTSI's website](#). Contact Julie Driscoll ([judrisco@iu.edu](mailto:judrisco@iu.edu)) for any questions on using WebCAMP.

**Review Process:** Applications will be reviewed by select cancer center members, university content experts, and external reviewers as needed. Applicant(s) also will be required to participate in a 30-minute Question & Answer session with reviewers via Zoom.

**Review Criteria:** Applications will be evaluated by reviewers using the following criteria.

- 1. Scientific merit:
  - a. Aims: Is this a key area of research? What is the potential impact? Are the Aims clearly stated?
  - b. Significance: Is the importance of this proposal in an overall program of research clear? Will the project add value to science and support the themes of the CPC Program? Are the concepts,

- methods, or interventions rigorous and technically sound? Will this line of research lead to new findings that will impact health care? Does the proposal support future directions for health care and disease management?
- c. Innovation: How does the project challenge or shift current research or practice? Are there novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies and what are the advantages over existing methodologies?
  - d. Approach: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned, scientifically rigorous, and appropriate to accomplish the aims of the project?
- 2. Cancer relevance
  - 3. Evidence of multidisciplinary, intra-programmatic, inter-programmatic, or mentor/mentee collaboration
  - 4. Potential to lead to external funding
  - 5. Strength of investigative team
  - 6. Success of prior IUSCCC-funded pilot projects led by the PI \*

**\*Note: If the applicant has received previous pilot funding, outcomes from that project will be evaluated and considered in this review. It is expected that all pilot funding will lead to submission of externally reviewed research grants. New investigators are strongly encouraged to apply.** If pilot funding is awarded through this mechanism, the PI will be required to complete a mapping schema and obtain IRB approval before funds will be released. Awardees are also required to report any publications and grants submitted and/or funded as a result of this pilot award to IUSCCC.

<b>Important Dates:</b>	Notification of Intent to Apply (via email):	<b>February 23, 2024</b>
	Application Deadline:	<b>April 9, 2024</b>
	In-person review meeting:	<b>April-May, 2024</b>
	Funding start date:	<b>July, 2024</b>

Intent to apply notification in **PDF** format should be sent to: Tracy Winkle at [tawinkle@iu.edu](mailto:tawinkle@iu.edu). Tracy can be reached by phone at (317) 278-5601.

Questions on content and review process should be directed to Drs. Todd Skaar ([tskaar@iu.edu](mailto:tskaar@iu.edu)) or Rachel Katzenellenbogen ([rkatzene@iu.edu](mailto:rkatzene@iu.edu)).