

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Request for Pilot Project Proposals with a Focus on Pancreatic Cancer

The IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center (IUSCCC) and the Pancreatic Cancer Working Group (PCWG) are inviting pilot feasibility proposals with a strong translational potential.

The Pancreatic Cancer Working Group mission is to facilitate a consistent and productive exchange of ideas and advances between clinicians and basic scientists for the understanding, prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer. A primary goal of the Cancer Center is to stimulate multi-disciplinary and translational research. **Thus, the purpose of this pancreas cancer-specific RFA is to promote intra- and inter-programmatic collaborations that address important unmet needs in pancreatic cancer. Funding for this award is from The Myles Brand Chair fund. As the Myles Brand Scholar in Cancer Research, Dr. Fishel has recused herself from writing any letters of support or from being listed as a collaborator on any of the applications.** Investigators should keep in mind the mission of the PCWG when developing a proposal for submission as only submissions that are aligned with the mission of the PCWG will be considered for funding.

The duration of this pilot funding is one year, and the budget should not exceed \$50,000. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from investigators who, with this additional support, are likely to obtain extramural peer-reviewed funding for pancreatic cancer research. Funds cannot be used for fellowship or training purposes. The proposed project should clearly be separate from previous/current funded projects.

Eligibility: The contact principal investigator must be a faculty member of the Pancreatic Cancer Working Group. The application must be a collaboration among the contact PI and another Co-PI or Co-I. Inter-programmatic and inter-institutional collaborations are encouraged. Other collaborations to consider are: senior faculty members with early-stage career investigators; basic, clinical and population science collaborations; and collaborations with investigators outside of the cancer center such as the school of public health or nursing.

Notice of Intent: Applicants must send an email to Vicki Clements (vclemen@iu.edu) declaring their intent to apply. Please include the names of all collaborators/team members as well as a 1-2 sentence description of the project and tentative project title. Applicants' eligibility will be reviewed and they will be sent a response inviting a full application. **Deadline for submission of NOI: February 14th by 5pm.**

Applications will be completed via WebCAMP. A link to the application will be sent after an applicant's Notice of Intent has been approved. Final applications are due by **March 6th at 5pm. The deadline is firm, and no extension will be granted.**

Final application formatting: The body of the proposal should not exceed two pages plus one page for Aims (total of 3 pages in length). Applications must follow NIH guidelines and formatting (see Sect. 2.6, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf>).

Format for full proposal: Abstract + 1 page Specific Aims + 2 pages for Research Strategy (items D through G, below):

- A. Abstract (30 lines) – not included in the page limit, but must adhere to NIH formatting of ≤ 30 lines
- B. Lay summary of the project (≤ 30 lines in length; this is not included in the page limit)
- C. Specific Aims (1 page)
 1. Problem
 2. Aims and Hypotheses
 3. Outcomes
- D. Significance and Background
 1. Importance of problem to field
 2. Any relevant preliminary data to support hypothesis (preliminary data not required)
 3. How will project increase scientific knowledge, clinical practice etc.

- E. Investigators
 - 1. Is there adequate expertise to support this study? Please detail mentorship support and any relevant collaborations, particularly with junior faculty.
- F. Approach
 - 1. Overall strategy, methodology, data collection, measures, interventions, theory & sample, power & data analyses.
- G. Relevant for future development
 - 1. How will this project lead to future funding?
 - 2. Pathway for translation of the project into the clinic

(3 Page Limit Ends Here)

Additional documents that must be included with the application are listed below.

- 1. References
- 2. Budget
 - A detailed budget and justification must be attached which can include personnel, supplies and equipment. Proposals should not include percent effort (salary) for the Principal Investigator(s).
- 3. Biosketches of all investigators
- 4. Timeline

A review panel will be comprised of IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center members as well as external researchers with expertise in pancreatic cancer. Previous pilot funding received by the PI and results of that pilot funding will be taken into consideration during the review process. Final funding decisions will be made based on the review evaluations and rankings.

1. Review Criteria are:

- Relevance to pancreatic research
- Scientific merit
- Potential to promote intra- and inter-programmatic collaborations that address important unmet needs in pancreatic cancer
- Potential for multidisciplinary and translational collaborations
- Potential for establishing sustainable collaborative interactions
- Potential for subsequent R01 or equivalent level external funding
- Success of prior Cancer Center-funded pilot projects lead by the PI*

***Note: if you have received previous pilot funding from the Cancer Center, your outcomes from that funding will be evaluated and considered in this review. It is expected that all pilot funding will lead to submission of externally reviewed research grants.**

The timetable is:

Notice of intent to apply:	February 14, 2025
Completed application submitted:	March 6, 2025
Anticipated funding start date:	May 1, 2025