Indiana University Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

TMM Pilot Proposal RFA: Shark Tank Competition for Pilot Project Proposals Utilizing New Technologies

The Tumor Microenvironment & Metastasis Program (TMM) is inviting proposals from members focused on using new technologies that will lead to submission of a competitive external grant application. Projects focused on issues related to the catchment area of Indiana (cancers with highest incidence/mortality and/or factors unique to Indiana that affect cancer rates and patient outcomes) and those that address issues of cancer disparities or health equalities are highly encouraged.

<u>Proposals will be funded for up to $50,000 (total costs) based on project need</u>. A priority of this RFA is to fund projects that by the end of 12 months will lead to submission of competitive, extramural grants, preferably NCI (MPI/ R01/P01/U01 or other R01-equivalent). At least one PI must be a TMM member, either associate or full member. Submitted projects must not currently be supported by external funds or other internal pilot funding sources. Examples of new technologies eligible for funding through this mechanism are listed below:

- snRNAseq or other single cell approaches
- Spatial transcriptomics/proteomics/metabolomics or other integrated omics work
- New TMAs
- New mouse/animal models
- New organoid models

Those interested in applying **must submit a Notification of Intent to Apply by April 15, 2024 by 11:59pm** with the following information:

- Names of team members on the proposal and a draft title for your proposal
- Please send this information in an email to Tracy Winkle at tawinkle@iu.edu

Instead of the NIH style review process, project ideas will be evaluated at a Shark Tank type event. Teams will be given 10 minutes to pitch the pilot project idea to other TMM members followed by 5 minutes for questions. TMM members in attendance will vote at the end of each presentation. **The first Shark Tank pitches will be scheduled for May 8, 2024 from 1-2pm**. Teams interested in applying should submit a one-page description of the project (0.5-inch margins, Arial 11) and the suggested format is outlined below. Applications will be completed via WebCAMP. **A link to start the application will be sent after an applicant's Notice of Intent has been approved.** The brief lay summary is included in the page limit of the application (1 page). The application should communicate the following:

- Scientific question
- Approach/methods
- Deliverables/outcomes and timeline including specific plans for application to external funding
- Please also include a lay summary of project that includes a statement of impact.
- Not included in the page limit: Data sharing is strongly encouraged and a ½ page description of how data obtained will be shared with other IUSCCC members is required (example would be how you plan to work with members in a Working Group to leverage data for collaborative multi-PI grants)

A **short budget and justification** should be attached on a separate page. Proposals should <u>not</u> include percent effort (salary) for the Principal Investigator(s). **NIH biosketches** of <u>all</u> investigators should be attached. If applying for funding to improve an unfunded project, the peer-review critiques must be attached as well.

Criteria for review:
- Rationale for using the new technology
- Cancer relatedness
- Scientific merit
- Feasibility
- Potential to lead to extramural funding: Does the proposal address an issue that is part of, or will lead to, research that will be of interest to external agencies? Priority will be given to studies geared towards NCI funding.

Awardees are required to report any publications and grants submitted and/or funded as a result of this pilot award to IUSCCC**. In addition, all awardees must be willing to share data/approaches/co-I for other members' grant applications.**

Notice of Intent deadline:	**April 15, 2024**
Application Deadline:	**April 17, 2024**
Start date:	**June 19, 2024**

IUSCCC staff will then coordinate with the teams and TMM Program Leaders for the Shark Tank presentation on May 8th (more than one date may be necessary depending on number of applications and scheduling). All questions should be directed to: Ken Nephew (knephew@indiana.edu) or Melissa Fishel (mfishel@iu.edu)