

CALL FOR PROPOSALS HSCI CANCER PROGRAM PILOT GRANTS 2021

AWARD AMOUNT*

\$50,000 per project per year for up to two years

POSTED DATE

Friday, September 25, 2020

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

Friday, October 30, 2020 | 5:00 p.m. EDT

ANTICIPATED AWARD DATE

Monday, January 4, 2021

The Cancer Program of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute (HSCI) invites applications for pilot grants to be awarded for research in 2021. **The intent is to provide resources for innovative projects dissecting stem/developmental programs in solid tumors that would help foster collaborations within the HSCI research community.** This funding is for innovative, high-impact research projects and is designed to provide a foundation of more substantial initiatives at R01 and P01 levels. Multi-investigator, multi-institution proposals are encouraged, as are **new technologies such as single-cell genomics and tumor organoids.** The applications should promote the Program mission: *To identify critical genes and pathways that sufficiently distinguish cancer from normal stem cells and hence may serve as candidate targets for therapy.*

*Up to two (2) projects will be funded for at a maximum of \$100,000 each, or one (1) collaborative project between multiple PIs will be funded at a maximum of \$200,000. All personnel, including the PI, must commit effort, even if salary is not requested.

HSCI plans to award two (2) grants yet reserves the right not to fund any project. Each project will receive two years of funding (\$50,000 per year). Decision on the duration and level of funding will be made by the HSCI Executive Committee, following advice from an *ad hoc* committee appointed to review all applications. For projects that are awarded two years of funding, the second year is contingent on achievement of milestones specified for the first year and will be at the discretion of the HSCI Executive Committee.

It is understood that any tool or reagent generated as part of an HSCI Cancer Program Pilot Grant will be available for sharing with the wider HSCI community.

Eligibility Criteria

These pilot grants are targeted to members of the Harvard community with PI rights. Only individuals with PI status in their home institutions, with independent laboratory space and prior independent funding (such as start-up funds or sponsored awards), as verified by a home institution research/finance administrator, are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to excellent projects from PIs not currently funded by HSCI.

You must have HSCI Principal or Affiliated Faculty status before you submit a proposal. To become an HSCI Affiliated Faculty member, simply email your CV with a statement of your research interests to Dr. Jordan Kreidberg at jordan.kreidberg@childrens.harvard.edu. The review and approval process may take a few days, so it is advisable to send the email to Dr. Kreidberg as soon as possible.

Application Process

Applications may be completed and submitted online at:

https://hsci.formstack.com/forms/2021_cancer_program_pilot_grant

All applications must contain the following:

- 1. Project Title**
- 2. PI and institution names**
- 3. Abstract (up to 1/3 page)**
 - Brief statement summarizing the key points of the proposal
- 4. Research Proposal (for single PI proposals, max. 3 pages; for multi- investigator proposals, max. 3 pages per sub-project)**
 - Background and Rationale
 - Specific Aims
 - Milestones
 - Key risks and plans to mitigate
 - References
- 5. Budget**
 - HSCI budget template (NIH format), available upon request
 - For single investigator proposals, the total project costs may not exceed \$50,000 per year, inclusive of indirect costs, for a period of up to two years.
 - For multi-investigator proposals, total project costs may not exceed \$100,000 per year, inclusive of indirect costs, for a period up to two years. Two or more investigators may submit proposals with unequal subproject budgets, and the PI for each subproject must submit a separate budget.
 - HSCI caps the amount of indirect costs that can be budgeted for at 20% of total direct costs.
- 6. Budget justification/narrative (for single PI proposals, max. 1 page; for multi-investigator proposals, max. 1 page per sub-project; each sub-project must have a separate budget justification)**
 - Justify proposed costs at the line-item level of detail
 - Include effort committed by all personnel even if salary is not requested (PIs must commit effort)
 - Include supplies
- 7. Biographical sketch of applicant (standard NIH 5-page format)**
 - Include a listing of “other support” for the proposed project, using a 5th page if necessary
- 8. Letter of institutional support**
 - Must include an authorized institutional signature (as determined by applicant’s home institution policies for research proposal submission—usually a central grants office official) as confirmation that the host institution approves the proposed scope and budget. Upload PDF with signature.

NB: - Letters of recommendation are not needed

- Papers in press can be included in the references and submitted with the application

[Submission process](#)

SUBMISSION OF ALL MATERIALS BY 5 PM (EDT) ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

[Review Criteria](#)

A key goal of the HSCI Cancer Program is to improve human health by supporting basic, translational or clinical work in cancer stem cell biology. Factors for reviewers' consideration include: scientific quality, relevance to the [HSCI mission](#), and the project's potential to open new areas of thought and investigation.

Independent reviewers will evaluate the proposals primarily for their potential to advance these goals. They will also consider the availability of alternative funding sources and the potential to promote future collaborative research, particularly between institutions. Recommendations from the reviewers will be considered by the HSCI Executive Committee for the final decision.

[Inquiries](#)

Programmatic questions regarding the Cancer Program Pilot Grants may be addressed to Maureen Herrmann, Program and Administrative Director, at (617) 496-6647 or mailto:maureen_herrmann@harvard.edu.

Administrative questions on the Cancer Program Pilot Grants may be addressed to Robert Perez, Grants Officer, at mailto:robert_perez@harvard.edu.

[Summary timeline](#)

Application due date: Friday, October 30, 2020 | 5 PM (EDT)

Review outcome notification: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Award start date: On or about Monday, January 4, 2021

Thank you for your interest in HSCI

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