



## Pilot Award Opportunity for Developing NCI P01 Application Teams

### *Request for Applications*

#### **Funding Opportunity Purpose**

A key factor in positioning Massey Cancer Center to achieve NCI comprehensive cancer center designation is a funding portfolio that includes one or more program project (P01) awards. This pilot award opportunity is designed to provide teams of MCC members with pilot funding that will allow them to generate preliminary data and collaborative publications that will form the basis of a P01 application.

*P01 Description:* Program projects must include at least 3 research projects and an administrative core. Typically, P01s also include one or more shared resource cores. The individual projects must share a common central theme, focus, and overall objective. Competitive P01 applications require team members with a demonstrated record of ongoing accomplishments in their fields and evidence of collaboration as evidenced by peer-reviewed funding and publications. Program integration is a major review criterion, and strong applications consist of projects and cores that collectively are more likely to be effective in achieving the overall goals and aims of the program than if the projects were performed independently.

Applicants should familiarize themselves with the full P01 requirements as specified in PAR-20-077 (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-077.html>).

#### **Key Dates**

*Posted Date:* November 18, 2020  
*Application Due Date:* December 15, 2020, by 11:59 p.m.  
*Earliest Start Date:* February 1, 2020

#### **Anticipated Number of Awards**

It is anticipated that one award will be made.

#### **Award Budget and Project Period**

The award period is one year. Individual projects are limited to no more than \$50,000 and there is an overall cap of \$150,000 per P01 for all of the team projects (eg, a team with 4 projects might fund each equally at \$37,500 per project or at different levels for each project such as \$50,000, \$40,000, \$30,000, and \$30,000; a team with 3 projects might fund each project at \$50,000).

#### **Eligibility**

This opportunity is for teams of individuals who, if awarded through this pilot mechanism, must submit a P01 application to the NCI by May 25, 2022 (January 25, 2021, preferred), with VCU as the lead institution. Programs may include projects that will be conducted at other institutions, but non-VCU projects will not receive funding through this pilot mechanism. Each team project

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based at VCU must include at least one MCC member as a PI or co-PI, and each team project PI or co-PI can only participate in one submitted team application (ie, the same PI or co-PI cannot be included on multiple team program submissions). **Teams must provide evidence of joint publications.**

## Application Components

*Formatting:* The provided application template must be used (formatted for a standard 8 ½ x 11-inch page with at ½-inch margins on all sides). Fonts (Arial is recommended) must be 11 points or larger with a type density of no more than 15 characters (spaces included) per inch and line spacing of no more than 6 lines per inch.

The application components, in the following order, should be submitted as a single PDF file.

- Brief overall descriptive P01 title
- P01 project titles with associated PI, co-PI, and co-investigator name(s)
- 1-page summary of the overall project including:
  - The overall objectives and specific aims of the P01
  - How the projects will be highly integrated
- A brief description (30-line NIH-style abstract) of the individual projects and how they will interact with one another or any proposed shared resources
- A brief description of the shared resource cores to be developed
- A brief paragraph on how the P01 is responsive to the needs of the catchment area and how community advocates will be used to inform the research objectives (applicants should contact Vanessa Sheppard, PhD, [[Vanessa.Sheppard@vcuhealth.org](mailto:Vanessa.Sheppard@vcuhealth.org)]; <https://redcap.vcu.edu/surveys/?s=NCDK884CF3>] for direction on how to incorporate this requirement)
- A listing of joint publications and multi-PI awards relevant to the proposed science
- A timeline and milestones needed to advance to a P01 submission
- Biographical sketches (PHS 398 format) and other support (PHS 398 format) for all team members (PIs, co-PIs, co-investigators)
- For each team project, a detailed budget (PHS 398, Form Page 4) and budget justification

\*PHS 398 forms and samples can be found at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.

## Allowable and Unallowable Expenses

*Allowable expenses:*

- Research and laboratory supplies
- Shared resource charges
- Technical or laboratory staff salaries (including fringe benefits)
- Stipends (including fringe benefits where applicable)
- External advisory board member honorariums
- Animal costs
- Patient care costs and stipends
- Research-related contractual agreements
- Software (prior approval required)
- Publication costs

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*Non-allowable expenses:*

- Expenses incurred by collaborators, including project PIs or co-investigators, who are not located at VCU
- Faculty salaries
- Equipment (including computers)
- Equipment maintenance and service contracts
- Secretarial and administrative salaries
- Graduate and undergraduate student tuition and student fees
- Textbooks, coursebooks, and periodicals (including subscription fees)
- Membership dues
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings or laboratories
- Routine printing costs
- Food costs associated with meetings or conferences held by the investigative team
- Conference registration fees and travel costs

## **Review Criteria**

- Scientific merit (significance, innovation, and approach) of the individually proposed projects and shared resources
- Cohesiveness of the entire P01 proposal with strong integration of individual projects and any proposed cores
- Strength of the P01 team, both individually (strong record of accomplishments in the field) and collaboratively (jointly authored publications and multi-PI peer-reviewed funding awards)
- Responsive to the needs of MCC's catchment area
- Incorporates community advocate to inform research objectives
- Likelihood of being funded as a P01 application

## **Award Conditions**

- Awardees are responsible for obtaining any required regulatory approvals from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Institutional Review Board (IRB), Laboratory Safety Committee (LSC), Radiation Safety Committee, other regulatory body as required.
- An award is made for a one-year period as designated in the issued notice-of-award letter. Unexpended funds may not be used beyond the award period unless a no-costs extension (NCE) has been requested at least 30 days prior to the project end-date and the NCE is approved. If an NCE is approved, a revised notice-of-award letter will be issued, which will specify the additional project period and any further restrictions or requirements. Expenses incurred outside of the approved project period are the responsibility of the PI.
- Awarded funds are to be used in accordance with the budget submitted in the application. Awardees must obtain prior approval for any changes in the budget.
- The award will be administered through MCC.
- The pilot award funding index will not be released until the awardee provides an alternate index (2-ledger or 6-ledger index) to which over-expenditures on the funding index can be charged.
- A progress report is required 30 days after the end of the project period.

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- Awardees agree to providing periodic updates (eg, resulting publications, extramural awards, patents) for up to 5 years following the completion of the project.
  - If requested by MCC leadership, the PI of the award is expected to assist in the review of future grant applications.
  - It is expected that data generated from basic and clinical research projects supported by this award will lead to the submission of grant applications to national funding agencies or foundations.
  - **Awardees must submit a P01 application to the NCI by May 25, 2021 (January 25, 2021, preferred), with VCU as the lead institution.**
  - All publications and presentations that arise from work conducted under this award must acknowledge the support of the VCU Massey Cancer Center.
  - As a further condition of the award, the P01 must agree to a set of milestones that will be provided at the time of award. These milestones will include frequency of team meetings, decision points for activities such as core resources selection, internal advisory board (IAB) selection, external advisory board (EAB) selection, status updates to the MCC Executive Committee, pre-application consultation with the NCI program officer, review of the draft application by the IAB and EAB, and final selection of the projects to be submitted as part of the application.

### Submission Instructions

The complete application as a single PDF file should be emailed to [mccsubmission@vcu.edu](mailto:mccsubmission@vcu.edu) with "P01 Pilot Opportunity" in the subject line. All submissions will be acknowledged within 48 hours of receipt. If acknowledge is not received within that time frame, please email **BOTH** Olivia Patterson at [opatterson@vcu.edu](mailto:opatterson@vcu.edu) and Lisa Mallory at [malloryld@vcu.edu](mailto:malloryld@vcu.edu) to confirm receipt of the application.

### Application Questions

Please direct any questions to Olivia Patterson at [opatterson@vcu.edu](mailto:opatterson@vcu.edu) or 804-628-3400.