

1/11/2021

To: All UWCCC members and all UW Faculty (including non-members of the UWCCC) interested in Cancer Immunology and Tumor Immunotherapy

From: Douglas McNeel MD PhD, Jacques Galipeau MD, and Paul Sondel MD PhD, for the UWCCC Immunology - Immunotherapy Working Group

Re: Announcement of **The 4th annual UWCCC Transdisciplinary Immunology-Immunotherapy Pilot Program Request For Proposals (RFP)**, due by 11pm CT on May 7th, 2021.

The UWCCC Transdisciplinary Cancer Immunology-Immunotherapy Pilot Project Competition

Based on a generous gift to the UWCCC from Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Borden, we are most pleased to announce this 4th annual Request For Proposals (RFP) for The UWCCC Transdisciplinary Cancer Immunology-Immunotherapy Pilot Project Competition. Professor Borden, a former UWCCC Leader of Immunotherapy (1978-90) and now UW Professor Emeritus, has been a worldwide leader in Cancer Immunology and in the translational development of interferons. In keeping with the recent UWCCC Strategic Plan, Ernie and Louise Borden are eager to be helping the UWCCC enhance initiatives in transdisciplinary-translational immunology-immunotherapy. With additional funding from the UWCCC, these awards will continue to support new pilot grants to encourage and develop novel transdisciplinary cancer immunology/immunotherapy.

Specific Grant Plans: This funding mechanism will **competitively** support ~2-4 one-year grants annually, each to be \$50,000. These can be new grants and/or renewal applications for a competitively-reviewed 2nd year of funding for grants that received a 1-year award through this mechanism. The purpose of each grant is to enable 2 (or more) separate UW labs ***to develop a new, unfunded, potentially transformative idea, involving two different disciplines or technologies***; thus, requiring collaborative-complementary input from two Co-PIs representing different scientific or clinical disciplines. At least one PI needs to be a UWCCC member; the other UW PI can be from outside of the UWCCC or even outside the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, to encourage transdisciplinary research. These applications will then be internally peer-reviewed to select awardees. **Awardees will have the opportunity for a competitive renewal for a 2nd year.**

Grant Eligibility and Submission Details:

- A. **Eligibility:** Each pilot grant requires 2 UW faculty Co-PIs; at least one must be a UWCCC member. These 2 should be faculty that reflect transdisciplinary backgrounds/interests. Non UWCCC members can be a Co-PI with a UWCCC member. Industry collaborators are also welcome, but their role will be unfunded. UW faculty receiving support from the past 2 years of this funding mechanism (any funding that was not complete as of Sept. 2019) are not eligible to submit NEW applications (but may be named collaborators on new grants submitted by 2 other Co-PIs). Individuals funded recently for a new 1-year grant are eligible to submit a single renewal application for a 2nd year (*recipients of awards from years 1, 2 and 3 are listed below).
- B. **Application Components and Format:** Each application will include a RESEARCH PLAN (**≤3 pages**), followed by other items, as follows:
 - a. **RESEARCH PLAN (maximum of 3 pages, single-spaced, 11-point Arial or similar font, 0.5-inch margins) to include sections labelled as follows:**
 - i. Brief Abstract
 - ii. Aims
 - iii. Brief clarification of the transdisciplinary nature of the research
 - iv. Research plan (background, preliminary data, experimental plan, measurable goals, tables-figures)

- v. Plans for project growth/future external funding
 - vi. Vision of realistic path to future clinical testing
- b. **Budget (via the standard UWCCC pilot budget template provided within application form)**
- c. **References (1 page max)**
- d. **NIH Biosketches of the Co-PIs (maximum of 5 pages each)**
- C. **Budget:** The one-year **\$50,000** total budget (all direct, no indirects) cannot be used to support faculty salaries, but can be used for supplies/personnel/other research costs. One possibility is for the funds to be used to support a student/fellow that is working collaboratively and in a transdisciplinary way with effort in the labs of both Co-PIs.
- D. **Due Date:** In order to provide sufficient time for interested faculty to pursue/submit new collaborations/projects, we are providing >3 full months for the planning/preparation of these applications. Thus, the due date is **Friday, May 7th, 2021 by 11pm CT. Competitive Renewal:** All recipients of these pilot funds will be invited to present a brief presentation regarding progress and plans for a **competitive renewal \$50,000** award, prior to consideration for a 2nd year of funding (likely at our UWCCC Cancer Immunology/Tumor Immunotherapy quarterly mini-retreat, or weekly UWCCC Tuesday 9am UWCCC Cancer Immunology Journal Club/Seminar series).
- E. **Application Process:** Please apply through the [UWCCC Pilots Portal](#) (log in with your UW NetID). Please complete the application and upload your documents. If you have any questions, please contact UWCCC Preaward at uwcccpreaward@uwcarbone.wisc.edu.

Review Criteria: The review committee will include investigators with basic, translational and clinical research experience. Innovation, rationale, approach, any relevant data, transdisciplinary science and potential for eventual translation into clinical trials will be criteria for awards. The review committee is looking for projects that can be initiated quickly and be able to collect substantial data in the first year, to be competitive for a 2nd renewal year.

Grant Terms – Final Report: By Nov. 1 following the completion of funding (either a 1-year award or after a 2nd renewal year), submission of a written final report on progress and continuation plans is required. A reminder and template will be sent upon completion of funding.

We look forward to seeing our campus' best ideas for transdisciplinary/translatable cancer immunology/immunotherapy!

***Recipients of prior awards:**

Year 1: (new applications funded for 1 year in June 2018)

- A. *Combining estrogen receptor blockade and local irradiation to enhance immunogenicity in immunologically cold breast cancer.* Zach Morris MD PhD and Linda Schuler PhD (renewal submitted and funded June 2019).
- B. *A New Strategy for Identification of Public Tumor-Associated HLA Antigens.* Lloyd Smith PhD and Doug McNeel MD (renewal submitted and funded June 2019).

Year 2: (new applications funded for 1 year in June 2019)

- C. *Anti-tumor CD8+ T Cell Immunity via Nucleus-initiated NF-kB Signaling.* Shigeki Miyamoto PhD and Marulasiddappa Suresh DVM PhD (separate competitive renewal funding obtained 2020).
- D. *A Chemical Biology Solution to a Glycoimmune Checkpoint in Ovarian Cancer.* Weiping Tang PhD and Manish Patankar PhD (renewal submitted and funded June 2020).

E. *Immunomodulation of Papillomavirus-induced Disease*. Paul Lambert PhD and Paul Sondel MD PhD (no cost 1 year extension received; no renewal submitted in 2020).

Year 3: (new applications funded for 1 year in June 2020)

F. *Advancing treatment of cancers with weaponized iPSC-derived NK cells*. Igor Slukvin MD PhD and Jacques Galipeau MD

G. *Innovative mouse model of colon cancer to test novel radioimmunotherapy*. Rich Halberg PhD and Jamey Weichert PhD

H. *NSCLC Circulating Tumor Cells: Early Detection of Immunotherapy Resistance*. Ticiana Leal MD and Josh Lang MD MS