Northwestern University
Physical Sciences - Oncology Center

Request for Proposals – Pilot Project Program

Release date: March 16, 2011
Proposal submission deadline: May 17, 2011

The Northwestern University Physical Sciences - Oncology Center, one of 12 national centers funded by the National Cancer Institute, is focused on research organized under the umbrella theme of “Coding, Decoding, Transfer and Translation of Information in Cancer”. The Center’s website www.psoc.northwestern.edu presents comprehensive information on the Center’s work and mission.

As part of its charter, the NU-PSOC awards funding for 1 to 2 pilot projects each year to researchers with innovative projects, closely aligned with the central research mission of the Center. Selected projects will be funded for one year up to $100,000 direct costs per year with the possibility of competitive renewal for a second year. Applications will be solicited annually.

Qualifications:
• Applicant must be an independent investigator who is tenured, tenure track, clinician-investigator track or research-track faculty.
• Project must be innovative and closely aligned with the overarching framework of the NU-PSOC.
• Proposals from current PS-OC members must represent new work, not enhancements of current PS-OC projects.
• Minority and female investigators are strongly encouraged to apply, however pilot project program applicants will not be asked to identify their gender or racial/ethnic status.

Application Procedure:
• Submit a proposal of no longer than 3 pages that includes:
  o Abstract.
  o Description of the relevance of the proposed project to the coding, decoding, transfer and translation of information in cancer.
  o Statement of Background, Preliminary Studies, Research Plan, and Research Design and Methodology.
• Append the following additional materials to the proposal:
  o Project budget using NIH PHS398 detail budget and budget justification (no page limit) http://www.research.northwestern.edu/osr/forms.html#NIH
  o NIH Biographical Sketches for principal personnel.
  o Current and Pending Funding (other support).

Responsibilities of Awardees:
• Participation in quarterly NU-PSOC Science Jams.
• Presentations at the twice yearly meetings of the NU-PSOC Center Advisory Committee. (One presentation will occur at the beginning of the project and the second will occur at
Center participants and members of the Executive Committee will be encouraged to provide feedback at these presentations.

- A written progress report submitted two months prior to the end of the project year. This report can be incorporated into a competitive renewal application for a second year of funding.

Submit applications to: Helen Hutten, Asst. Project Manager, NU-PSOC; h-hutten@northwestern.edu

**Evaluation Process:**

- Criteria:
  1. Scientific merit
  2. Novelty of the proposal.
  3. Intercalation of the project objectives with the theme of the NU-PSOC.

Each of these three criteria will account for one-third of the score.

The NU-PSOC Executive Committee will acts as a study section to review the proposals.

Awardees will be notified by letter with funding beginning as quickly as possible.