Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE)

The purpose of the UC San Diego SPORE in Head and Neck Cancer is to contribute significantly to progress in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of head and neck cancer. These goals will be accomplished through multiple and diverse research projects, both in basic science and population-based research, which can be rapidly translated into clinical applications.

Request for Applications (RFA)

Online proposal submission OPEN for the 2015/16 award cycle of the Developmental Research and Career Enhancement Programs

DEADLINE: Friday, October 23 @ 5pm PDT

The overarching goal of the SPORE is to rapidly translate laboratory discoveries to clinical applications. A major objective of the SPORE is to develop new avenues of head and neck cancer research through support of developmental research programs and to identify and cultivate young investigators seeking a career in head and neck cancer research. To support innovative translational research in all areas of investigation that impact head and neck cancer, each SPORE allocates significant effort to two distinct funding programs to meet these objectives: the Career Enhancement Program (CEP) and the Developmental Research Program (DRP). Through these mechanisms, the field of head and neck cancer research will be expanded and new avenues of translational research will be developed.

ELIGIBILITY

DRP – must have a faculty position with UC San Diego or one of our affiliate institutes (J. Craig Venter Institute, La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology, Rady Children’s Hospital, or San Diego State University) or one of our C3 partners (Salk Institute or Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute).

CEP – must have a junior or senior faculty position at UC San Diego or any of the above affiliates. Exceptional postdoctoral fellows with plans to transition to a faculty position at any of the above institutes within a year may also apply but must submit a letter from an institution supporting their transition to faculty.

1) Developmental Research Program (DRP)

Goal: The DRP supports pilot projects focusing on innovative and interdisciplinary translational research with potential for promotion to full SPORE project. High-risk/High-impact projects that take advantage of new research opportunities in the head and neck cancer research field and promote multidisciplinary collaboration between basic, preclinical and clinical programs are particularly encouraged. Human end-point is not required.

Award: Two awards for $100K (1-year; direct costs) will be awarded pending SPORE funding (application submitted January 27, 2016). DRP funds should be used for research activities and cannot be used for the purchase of any large equipment. Applications will not be funded until approval is obtained from the appropriate committees overseeing animals, radiation, human subjects, and hazardous materials. Semi-annual and end-of-project reports

An NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center
are required. Carry forward of funds is not allowed.

**Review criteria** include the 1) scientific merit, 2) translational potential, 3) relevance to head and neck cancer, 4) potential for collaborative research, 5) qualifications of the investigative team to perform the proposed research, 6) identification of proposed resources, and 7) potential for independent research in head and neck cancer.

2) **Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**

**Goal:** The CEP supports junior faculty and established researchers who wish to commit their research interests to or refocus on translational approaches in the head and neck cancer research area with potential for promotion to full SPORE project. Human end-point is not required.

**Award:** Two awards for $100K (1-year; direct costs) will be awarded pending SPORE funding (application submitted January 27, 2016). Funds can be used to support research activities including partial salary support for the candidate, research personnel, supplies, travel, and/or other expenses, and cannot be used for the purchase of any large equipment. Applications will not be funded until approval is obtained from the appropriate committees overseeing animals, radiation, human subjects, and hazardous materials. Semi-annual and end-of-project reports are required. Carry forward of funds is not allowed.

**Review criteria** include the 1) quality of the scientific proposal, 2) the candidate’s potential for an independent head and neck cancer research career, 3) potential impact of the research on the field of head and neck cancer, 4) relevance to the overall translational research mission of the head and neck cancer SPORE program, 5) commitment of the mentor, and 6) personal career development plan. Special emphasis on recruitment of women, individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, as well as individuals with disabilities will be given.

**PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:**

A. Cover Page: program (CEP or DRP), principal investigator, academic title, department, institution name/address, email, office phone, mentor (only CEP), and **project title**. (1 page)

B. Abstract: must include hypothesis, scientific impact and relevance to head and neck cancer, specific aims of the project, proposed experimental approach, and references. (**2 pages MAX excluding references**; font Arial, 11 pt)

C. Biosketch of PI (up to 5 pages; **New NIH Standard Biosketch**), including relevant recent publications and other support.

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES:** The deadline is **5:00 PM PST, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015**. All applications must be submitted electronically (as **one single PDF**) via the MCC **WebGAAS** website (https://moores.ucsd.edu/AboutUs/AdminServices/grants-in-aid.asp).

Once an application has been submitted electronically via WebGAAS, it cannot be changed.

RFA questions:
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