



Hanna and Mark Gleiberman Head & Neck Cancer Center Request for Applications (RFA)

Research Pilot Project Grant Opportunity Deadline: August 24, 2022 @ 5:00 PM (PST)

PURPOSE:

The UC San Diego Health Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center is dedicated to providing support for the care of patients with head and neck cancer and their families. Our Center strives to provide effective, state of the art head and neck cancer care, as well as develop innovative, evidence-based approaches that facilitate novel therapies for head and neck cancer and a productive and healthy life for our patients and their families.

The UC San Diego Health Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center is seeking applications for pilot project grants under the Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center Pilot Project Grant Award Program that will ultimately improve curative therapy as well as the quality of care for head and neck cancer patients and their families. Research proposals may be focused on any aspect of head and neck cancer care or head and neck and/or voice disease etiology, diagnosis, therapy.

The Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center is particularly interested in applications from investigators who have not previously been involved in translational head and neck cancer research, but whose fundamental research, possibly involving but not limited to cancer mechanisms or technology development, may be newly applied to head and neck cancer. Applications from junior investigators are also strongly encouraged.

AMOUNT: Proposals may be submitted for either a one- or two-year grant period. Up to \$75,000 of direct costs per year may be requested, with the second year of funding contingent on progress during the first year. Indirect costs are not allowed. Travel and equipment costs are also not allowed.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Principal investigators must have a faculty appointment in the UC San Diego School of Medicine or in UC San Diego Health Sciences.
- Must be eligible to apply as principal investigator for grant support from national agencies.
- Investigator must be independent and have a commitment from the institution for salary and space.
- Applicant is not required to be a US citizen, but must hold a visa that will allow them to remain in the US long enough to complete the project.
- If applying for a 2-year grant, the second year of funding is contingent on evidence of sufficient progress at the 1-year progress report.

GRANT PROPOSAL EVALUATIONS:

The Moores Cancer Center (MCC) Pilot Grants Program will appoint an independent Review Committee to conduct an NIH-style peer review of applications. Proposals will be formally evaluated by an internal review panel composed of faculty with expertise in the areas of research being proposed. Scored recommendations will be provided to the UC San Diego Health Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center.

The Review Committee will evaluate the following aspects of each application:

- **Scientific merit of the proposed research**, e.g., hypothesis driven, appropriate aims and techniques to attain goals; sound study design that will contribute valuable, valid, and meaningful data.
- **Significance of the proposed research to head and neck cancer**, e.g., the proposal addresses an important problem and/or a critical need for rapid progress beyond current approaches or applications.
- **Novelty of the proposed research, advancing the field of head and neck cancer**, e.g., the proposed project capitalizes on unique populations/ environments, specialized expertise, new concepts/ perspectives, innovative methodologies, and/or emerging technologies.
- **Degree to which the research will have a positive impact on the detection, treatment or prevention of head and neck cancer or pre-cancer, and/or patients with head and neck cancer**, e.g., alignment with the mission of Moores Cancer Center (*cancer prevention, detection, and care*); what impact could the findings ultimately have on head and neck cancer patients and/or their care?
- **Likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals given the budget requested, institutional and other available resources.**
- **Pilot Project Justification/Likelihood that the project will lead to significant follow-on funding and/or return on investment**, e.g., meaningful preliminary data will be generated for potential future grant funding.

SUBMISSION:

Deadline: August 24, 2022 @ 5:00 PM (PST). Applications are accepted *only* electronically:

<http://moores.ucsd.edu/Admin/grants-in-aid.asp>. **The form for the application is located in this portal and must be used.** Once an application has been submitted electronically via *WebGAAS*, it cannot be changed.

FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS:

All applications must be submitted on the forms provided and adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use Arial font 11 points or larger
- Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages
- The application must be single-spaced and saved as a PDF
- Consecutively number pages in the Research Proposal
- As applicable, figures or other materials must be inserted directly into the body of the application
- No appendices

SELECTION PROCESS:

Applications must demonstrate a clear relevance to head and neck cancer, and applicants evidencing a history of cancer-relevant research will be favored. Proposals will be reviewed and scored by the MCC Review Committee according to NIH Study Section procedures. Individual notifications and general announcements will be issued in the Fall of 2022.

BUDGET AND USE OF FUNDS:

The budget may include partial salary support for faculty investigators, trainee investigators (graduate

students/postdocs), laboratory technicians, and other related study expenses. **Indirect costs, travel, professional meeting fees, salary support for administrative personnel, and equipment are excluded.**

The funds are to be used in general agreement with the research budget plan submitted with the application, but the Center will allow the investigator to re-budget reasonable amounts (up to 10%) in accordance with his or her needs. Any budgetary changes greater than 10% require Dr. Joseph Califano's approval.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECTS, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

Pending IRB or IACUC approval or copies of IRB or IACUC approval must be submitted prior to activation of the grant award.

GRANTEE PROGRESS REPORTS:

Reviews of work and progress will be made periodically but no less than annually. A progress report form will be sent to each PI towards the end of the funding year. This form must be completed, submitted, and approved prior to approval of a second year of funding (for those who apply for a 2-year grant). The progress report for Year 2 Funding is due in advance of the Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center's January Grant Conference, which will be approximately one year into the project.

PUBLICATIONS: All publications (as well as posters and abstracts at scientific meetings) that result from the support provided by this award must acknowledge that support in writing as follows: **"This project was supported by the UC San Diego Health Hanna and Mark Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center."**

EARLY TERMINATION OR TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS: If the grantee decides to discontinue the research project or leave UC San Diego, the UC San Diego Health Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center must be notified immediately and the project will be terminated.

CONTACT:

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