

## 2022 Fall Request for Applications (RFA)

# CUREBOUND

## TRANSLATIONAL Cancer Research Awards



**Deadline: Monday, August 15, 2022 @ 5:00 PM (PST) for LOI**

**& Friday, September 30, 2022 @ 5:00 PM (PST) for RFA (if invited to apply)**

### PURPOSE: Accelerating Cancer Research into Cures

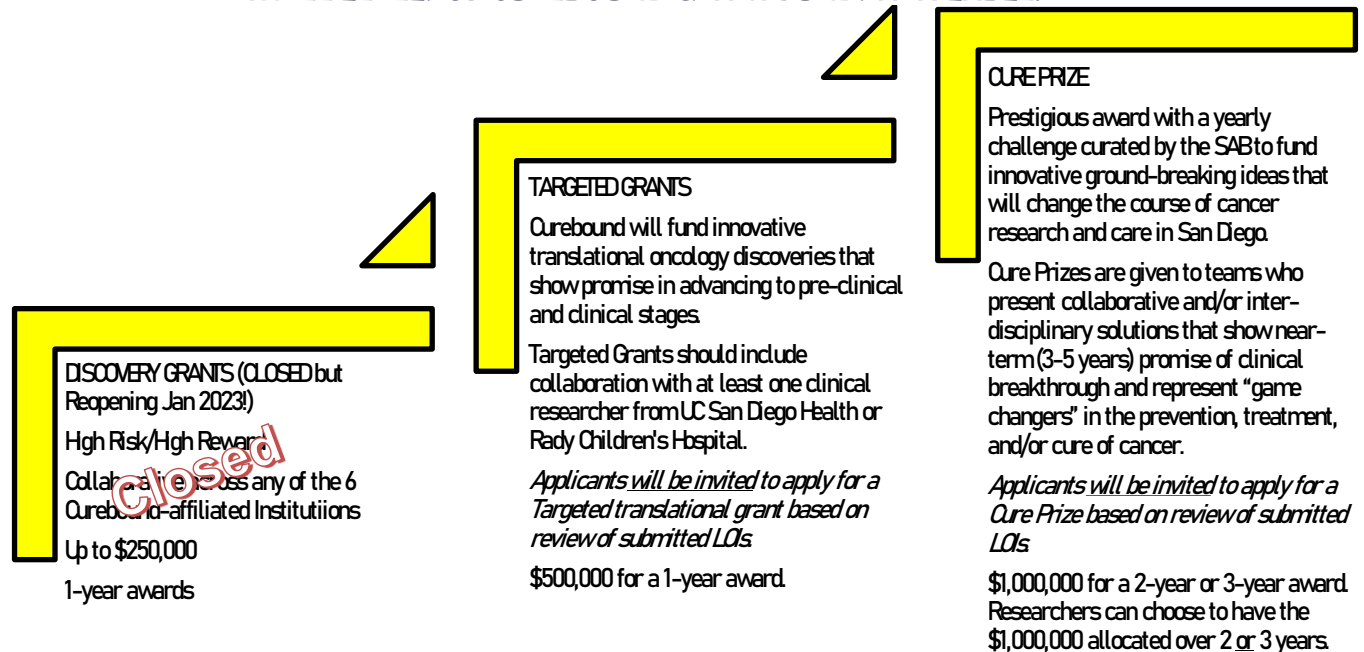
- \$20+ million raised for cancer research
- 80 discovery research projects and clinical trials funded to date
- 6 top cancer research institutions working in collaborative partnership together
- 1 mission: mobilize San Diego to accelerate cures for cancer in our lifetime

Curebound targets areas of research where the greatest opportunities exist and invests strategic funding in translational research projects that demonstrate promise of getting to clinic and to market.

We are committed to investing \$100 million into innovative, collaborative cancer research in San Diego and accelerating that research into cures for patients.

Curebound raises funds year-round for collaborative cancer research, including the signature event, Padres Pedal the Cause. Funds are available to faculty members from the 6 Curebound-affiliated institutions: Moores (MCC), Salk, Sanford Burnham Prebys (SBP), Rady Children's Hospital, La Jolla Institute (LJI), and Scripps Research (SR). The goal is to stimulate scientific collaboration, team science, and innovative translational research related to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer or pre-cancer. Priority will be given to proposals that 1) have a high likelihood of leading to extramural research funding 2) provide new approaches to important clinical or population/community challenges, or 3) offer a clear route to a clinical trial. Relevant, proposed research projects should describe use of the C3 Shared Resources found on the C3 website (<http://sdcancercouncil.org>).

### THREE LEVELS OF CUREBOUND GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE:



## OVERALL CUREBOUND GRANT RULES:

1. A PI/Co-PI may submit only one (1) LOI for a Targeted Grant and/or (1) LOI for a Cure Prize in response to this Fall 2022 Curebound call.
2. Cross-institutional collaboration is not required; however, if more than one institution is involved, the budget allocation for each institution must not be less than 30%.
3. Targeted Grants and Cure Prizes must include a collaboration with at least one clinical researcher from UC San Diego Health or Rady Children's Hospital.
4. Proposals must fall into one or more of the following Curebound Pillars:
  - Prevention & Diagnostic Tools
  - Novel Therapeutics & Platforms
  - Immunotherapies & Personalized Vaccines
  - Pediatric Cancers
  - Health Disparities
5. **ENCOURAGED** to be a participant in the 2023 Padres Pedal the Cause (see box below) or other Curebound fundraising events.
6. **We seek to become partners with Curebound grantees. As part of this partnership, we require grantees to:**
  - serve as a reviewer for the MCC Pilot Grant Committee over the next 24 months, as requested.
  - make themselves available 1-2 times during the year to share progress in cancer research with the Curebound donor/supporter community to inspire support.
  - provide photo and synopsis of project upon award selection for marketing and promotion to the Curebound community

\*\*\*The awards will be announced in December 2022 and funds will be available January 2023\*\*\*

**\*\*\*If you have any questions,  
please contact Amy Spilkin, PhD at [aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu)\*\*\***

### Participation Encouraged for **ALL CUREBOUND Awardees:**

PIs are encouraged to participate in the 2023 Padres Pedal the Cause (<https://www.curebound.org/padrespedal>) as a Team Captain, rider, spinner, runner, walker, volunteer, or virtual rider. PIs shall present at the annual C3 Retreat and/or MCC Scientific Retreat the following year or as requested.

## TARGETED GRANT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applications must include **PIs/Co-PIs from at least one (1) of the Curebound-affiliated institutions.**
2. Targeted Grants must include a collaboration with at least one clinical researcher from UC San Diego Health or Rady Children's Hospital.
3. Targeted Grants will fund continuity of ideas from the investigators' past line(s) of research, and this should be described in their research plan.
4. An LOI must be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM (PST)
5. Based on LOI ranking by Curebound's Scientific Advisory Board, applicants will be invited to apply for a Curebound Targeted Grant:
  - a. The proposed research must demonstrate a high likelihood of advancing discoveries to the clinic or market.
6. This is a **\$500,000 one-time grant**. Curebound will cover up to 30% of indirect costs. IDC is included within the \$500,000 grant award.
7. Must follow overall Curebound grant rules above.

**CURE PRIZE PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:****1. 2022 Cure Prize Challenge:**

An innovative solution that significantly improves the standard of care of a cancer that commonly leads to fatality. Solutions should have patient application within 3-5 years, if not sooner. Cure Prize research teams are intended to be collaborative either across institutions and/or across departments so solutions represent diverse and collaborative ideas.

We encourage broad interpretation of this challenge and out-of-the-box thinking. Examples may include (but are not limited to) next generation sequencing (NGS) testing for populations that typically do not have access, a new therapy nearing toward clinical application, drug repurposing or combinations for new targets, etc. The intent of the Cure Prize is to fund innovative ground-breaking ideas that will change the course of cancer research and care in San Diego.

2. Cure Prizes must include a collaboration with at least one clinical researcher from UC San Diego Health or Rady Children's Hospital.
3. An LOI must be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM (PST).
4. Based on LOI ranking by Curebound's Scientific Advisory Board, applicants will be invited to apply for a Curebound Cure Prize:
  - a. The proposed research must demonstrate a high likelihood of advancing discoveries to the clinic or market.
5. This is a **\$1,000,000, one-time grant** for a 2 or 3 year time period (i.e., either \$500,000 per year for 2 years, or \$333,333 per year for 3 years, decided by the PI and accounted for in the Budget and Budget Justification). Curebound will cover up to 30% of indirect costs. IDC is included within the \$1,000,000 grant award.
6. Must follow overall Curebound grant rules above.

**Instructions for All Curebound Proposals**

- A. Scientific Abstract (up to 250 words): The purpose of the Project Summary/Abstract is to describe succinctly every major aspect of the proposed project. It should contain a statement of objectives and methods to be employed.
- B. Lay Abstract (up to 250 words): Describe in lay language the potential impact of the project on cancer treatment, prevention and diagnosis in the short and long term.
- C. Project Justification
  - a. For Targeted Grants – Rationale for Follow-on Funding (1 page): Describe the progress made in the investigators' previous line(s) of research and how follow-on funding from Curebound in the form of a Targeted Grant would be a logical next step. Must show that this follow-on funding will significantly advance the research to clinic and/or market.
  - b. For Cure Prizes – Rationale for Innovative Solution to Cure Prize Challenge (1 page) - Describe the way in which your project is an innovative, ground-breaking idea that will change the course of cancer research and care in response to the Cure Prize Challenge. Must establish that the team will develop a collaborative and/or inter-disciplinary solution that shows near-term (3-5 years) promise of clinical breakthrough and represents a "game changer" in the prevention, treatment, and/or cure of cancer.
- D. Specific Aims (up to 1 page): The purpose of the Specific Aims is to describe concisely and realistically the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact of the proposed research will exert on the research fields involved. The Specific Aims should include goals,

hypotheses, role of each PI and senior/key personnel, and expected outcomes.

- E. **Research Strategy** (up to 5 pages, excluding references): This section should not exceed 5 pages including preliminary data, and should address the following: Significance, Innovation, Approach, Timeline, Accrual/Project Milestones, Biostatistics Summary). The Significance should explain the importance of the problem or describe the critical barrier to progress in the field that is being addressed. Explain how the proposed research project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved. The Innovation should explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. The purpose of the Approach is to describe how the research will be carried out. Applications must propose the use of institutional core facilities, if applicable and available. This section is crucial to how favorably an application is reviewed. Timeline and Accrual/Project Milestones should accurately estimate the time to complete specific phases of the proposal with observable benchmarks. Future years of funding are contingent on meeting these milestones in a timely manner, as reported in Annual Progress Reports and reviewed by the Grants Committee. The Biostatistics section should adequately address the statistical approach you will use, and should include a data analysis plan and a power analysis.
- F. **Biosketches**: A biosketch for each PI and senior/key personnel (NIH Standard 5-page Biosketch) with relevant recent publications and other current and pending support should be included in the application.
- G. **Budget and Budget Justification** (No page limit): The purpose of the budget and justification is to present and justify all expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives. A budget justification and summary for all major budget categories (e.g., salary, etc.) must be provided *for each site*. The application must also include a composite budget summary for all budget categories across all sites. Please indicate performance period for the project. Indicate if cost sharing will be provided from other funding sources in order to complete the aims of the project in your budget justification. See Budgetary Guidelines section below. For a 3-year award, funds are released in thirds, annually, pending adequate progress. For a 5-year award, funds are released in fifths, annually, pending adequate progress. [Please note that only UCSD faculty are eligible for discounts at Salk and SBP, per the reciprocity contract.] As stated above, Curebound will cover up to 30% of indirect costs. IDC is included within the grant amount.
- H. For proposals involving a clinical trial, pertinent information must include: (a) intervention(s) to be used, reasons for the selection of intervention(s), and mode(s) of delivery; (b) study design, treatment group(s), trial size, and inclusion/exclusion criteria; (c) control group(s) if applicable; (d) outcome measures; and (e) data analysis plan if applicable. Awards can be leveraged with other funding sources for the clinical trial provided that feasibility (e.g., drug availability, accrual and timeline) is clearly outlined in the application.
- I. **Biospecimen Request Form**: For proposals utilizing Biorepository specimens, a Biospecimen Request Form must be completed. The Biorepository and Tissue Technology Shared Resource website provides additional detail about resources that are available. Please contact the Biorepository Manager (Sharmeela Kaushal, PhD) at [ccbr@ad.ucsd.edu](mailto:ccbr@ad.ucsd.edu). Investigator must establish study feasibility (e.g., availability of suitable samples) to be included with the application.
- J. **Projects proposing to study patients at UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center or Rady Children's Hospital** must have signed approval of the respective Disease Team Leaders declaring that the study is feasible based upon the proposed patient population, needed accrual, and competing funded studies. Where appropriate, physicians overseeing the care of these patients should be considered for co-investigator status.

#### 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

APPLICATION GUIDELINES: The LOI deadline is 5:00 PM PST, **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**. The RFA deadline is 5:00 PM PST, **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**. The earliest starting date is January, 2023. All applications (pdf) must be submitted electronically via the MCC web-based pilot project review system called **WebGAAS**: <http://moores.ucsd.edu/Admin/grants-in-aid.asp>. The forms for the application are located in this portal and must be used. Once an application has been submitted electronically via *WebGAAS*, it cannot be changed.

#### CUREBOUND-AFFILIATED MEMBERS – AREAS OF INTEREST:

MCC: <https://healthsciences.ucsd.edu/research/moores/people/> [includes MCC members from SDSU]

Salk: <https://www.salk.edu/science/research-centers/nci-cancer-center/research/>

SBP: <https://www.sbpdiscovery.org/our-scientists>

Rady: <https://www.rchsd.org/programs-services/cancer-blood-disorders/team/>

LJI: <http://www.lji.org/faculty-research/research-areas/diseases/>

Scripps Research: <https://www.scripps.edu/faculty/>

**BUDGETARY GUIDELINES:** The budget may include partial salary support (at the NIH cap) for faculty investigators, trainee investigators (graduate students/postdocs), laboratory technicians, protocol writer, and other related study expenses. Also included: shared resources, publication fees, and supplies. Travel to professional meetings, professional meeting fees, salary support for administrative personnel, and equipment are **excluded**. Award funds may not be applied to costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor or cost shared by another sponsor. Please note that UCSD, Salk, and SBP faculty have discounted shared resource rates per the reciprocity contract.

Curebound allows for 30% IDC out of the total award amount, which should be accurately addressed in the budget (i.e., for Targeted grant of \$500,000, Curebound allows \$350,000 in Direct Costs and \$150,000 in IDC; for Cure Prize of \$1,000,000, Curebound allows \$700,000 in Direct Costs and \$300,000 in IDC).

**HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECTS, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:** Pending IRB or IACUC approval, copies of IRB or IACUC approval must be submitted prior to activation of the grant award.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:** The MCC Pilot Grants Program, in conjunction with the Curebound Scientific Advisory Committee, will appoint an independent Review Committee to conduct an NIH-style peer review of applications. The Review Committee will evaluate the following aspects of each application:

- Scientific merit of the proposed research project in particular the clinical/translational nature of the research, e.g., plan for translating the work from the laboratory to the clinic or community, and how the project aligns with the goals of the type of grant to which you are applying;
- Significance of the proposed research, i.e., whether it addresses a critical need for rapid progress beyond current approaches;
- Novelty of the hypothesis or methodology;
- Degree to which the studies will have a positive therapeutic impact on the detection, treatment or prevention of cancer or pre-cancer;
- Likelihood that the project will lead to significant follow-on funding and/or return on investment;
- A clear commitment by grant awardees that all data resulting from their work will be available to the scientific community at large at the earliest opportunity;
- Likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals given the budget requested, institutional environments, and other resources available and lead to extramural funding;
- Whether the studies are designed to capitalize upon the unique populations and environments, specialized expertise, new concepts and perspectives, innovative methodologies, and/or emerging technologies that are available due to the multi-institutional collaboration;
- Whether adequate institutional and/or financial support exists to sustain the research project;

- Fulfillment of the requirements and eligibility criteria of this RFA.

**USE OF FUNDS:** 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 up to 10%, in accordance with his or her needs, without requiring a budget resubmission. A no-cost extension beyond the grant funding period is not automatic and must be requested a minimum of 60 days before the project end date. A progress report must be completed prior to approving a no-cost extension.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Investigators are expected to publish an original article(s) at the conclusion of the project. All publications and presentations (as well as posters and abstracts at scientific meetings) that result from the support provided by this award must acknowledge the support in writing as follows: "CUREBOUND-TARGETED-FALL-2022 or CUREBOUND-CUREPRIZE-FALL-2022, AND #Curebound2022."

**EARLY TERMINATION OR TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS:** If the grantee decides to discontinue the research project or leave the Curebound-affiliated institution, the MCC Pilot Grants Committee must be notified immediately and the project will be terminated. The funds are non-transferrable.

**GRANTEE PROGRESS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) FORM:**

- The Progress Report and ROI form will be sent to each PI and Co-PI twelve (12) months after the beginning of the funding period, and annually thereafter.
- Each form must be completed and returned by the stated deadline to Amy Spilkin ([aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu)) for review by the MCC Pilot Grants Committee and Curebound.
- The synthesis of annual Progress Reports and ROI forms will be the main mechanism for the public reporting of Curebound fund stewardship as well as institutional and community marketing purposes.
- Annual Progress reports are required for release of funding for the following year(s).

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct inquiries to Amy Spilkin, PhD, Manager Cancer Training and Education.

Email: [aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu)