Purpose: Proceeds from last November’s Padres Pedal the Cause are now available to support research related to Pediatric Oncology. Faculty members, adjunct faculty, and fellows in the UCSD Department of Pediatrics are eligible to apply. Applications must be collaborative and must include a faculty member of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Priority will be given to proposals that have a high likelihood of leading to extramural research funding, propose a clear route to a clinical trial, or provide new approaches to important scientific, clinical, and/or population/community challenges.

If applicants outside of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (including Salk and Sanford Burnham Prebys Cancer Centers) would like to apply for this Pediatric funding, they should identify a UCSD Pediatric Oncologist to be a collaborator and co-PI. Contact Division Chief, William Roberts (wiroberts@ucsd.edu) to help identify a collaborator within his group, if needed.

2020 Pedal/Rady Pilot Grants Funds Available:
Awards up to $125K for one (1) year are expected to be funded in 2020. Awards will be announced in May 2020, and funds will be available in June 2020.

Pilot Grant Rules:
1. A PI/Co-PI may submit only one (1) Pilot Grant application for this Spring 2020 Pedal call.
2. Pilot Grant budget allocation for each C3 institution or Rady Children’s must not be less than 30%.
3. Required to be a participant in the 2020 Padres Pedal the Cause (see box below).
4. Required to serve as a reviewer for MCC grants over the next 24 months, as requested.

***If you have any questions about eligibility of the PI/Co-PIs, please contact Angela Ballantyne, PhD at aballantyne@health.ucsd.edu***

Participation Requirement for ALL Padres Pedal the Cause Grant Awardees:
PIs are required to participate in the 2020 Padres Pedal the Cause (https://www.gopedal.org) as a Team Captain, rider, spinner, runner, walker, volunteer, or virtual rider. PIs shall present at the annual MCC Scientific Retreat the following year or as requested.

Proposal Requirements: Applications must include a minimum of two PIs with at least one PI or collaborating Co-PI from the UCSD Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. At least one PI/Co-PI must be a Moores Cancer Center member.

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. 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 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.
D. Research Strategy (up to 3 pages, excluding references): This section should not exceed 3 pages, including preliminary data, and should address the following: Significance, Innovation and Approach. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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. 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.

G. 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.

H. 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 ccbp@ucsd.edu. Investigator must establish study feasibility (e.g., availability of suitable samples) to be included with the application.

I. Projects proposing a clinical trial at Rady Children’s Hospital must have signed approval of one of the Pediatric Oncology Disease Team Leaders, William Roberts (wiroberts@ucsd.edu) or Peter Zage (pzage@ucsd.edu), declaring that the study is feasible based on the proposed patient population, needed accrual, and competing 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 deadline is 5:00 PM PST, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020. The earliest starting date is JUNE 1, 2020. 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.
BUDGETARY GUIDELINES: The budget may include partial salary support for faculty investigators, trainee investigators (graduate students/postdocs), laboratory technicians, and other related study expenses. Travel, professional meeting fees, salary support for administrative personnel, and equipment are excluded.

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 RCHSD Pediatric Oncology leadership, will appoint an independent Review Committee to conduct an NIH-style peer review of applications. The goal of the Pedal/Rady RFA is to advance our understanding of cancer diagnosis and treatment and to foster the development of new collaborative scientific approaches as it relates to Pediatric Oncology. The Review Committee will evaluate the following aspects of each application:

- Scientific merit of the proposed research project and clinical/translational nature of the research, e.g., plan for translating the work from the laboratory to the clinic or community;
- 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 (if applicable);
- 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: “Padres Pedal the Cause/RADY #PTC2020.”

EARLY TERMINATION OR TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS: If the grantee decides to discontinue the research project or leave UC San Diego, the Cancer Center must be notified immediately and the project will be terminated. The funds are non-transferrable.

GRANTEE PROGRESS/IMPACT REPORTS:

- The Progress Report form will be sent to each PI six (6) months after the beginning of the funding period.
- The Impact Report form will be sent to each PI one (1) month after the end of the funding period.

Each form must be completed and returned within one (1) week to Angela Ballantyne (aballantyne@health.ucsd.edu) for review by the Padres Pedal/C3 Steering Committee. The synthesis of annual Impact Reports will be the main mechanism for the public reporting of Padres Pedal fund stewardship as well as institutional and community marketing purposes.

INQUIRIES:
Please direct inquiries to Angela Ballantyne, PhD, Manager of Research Development and Collaboration. Email: aballantyne@health.ucsd.edu; Phone: (858) 822-0182