2020 Moores Cancer Center (MCC) Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG)  
PILOT PROJECT AWARD  
UC San Diego (UCSD) – San Diego State University (SDSU)  
Request for Applications (RFA)  
Deadline: Friday, May 29th, 2020 @ 5:00 PM (PST)  

PURPOSE:  
Funds from the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center (MCC) Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) are available to MCC Members from UCSD and SDSU to stimulate scientific collaboration and innovative translational cancer research in the basic, clinical, and population (public health) sciences.  
This RFA seeks applications in basic science, translational and public health research across a wide spectrum of disease-focused areas to encourage greater breadth and depth related to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer involving patients and populations. The research supported through this mechanism must have UCSD and SDSU Co-PIs. The project should reflect a true inter-institutional collaboration, where the strengths and synergies between the collaborating institutions are clearly highlighted.  
A Co-PI may submit only 1 application. Priority will be given to proposals that have a high likelihood of leading to extramural research funding, provide new approaches to important scientific, clinical or population/community challenges, or offer a clear route to an interventional clinical trial based on translation of scientific discoveries.  

2020 MCC UCSD-SDSU PILOT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE:  
• One (1) award up to $50K total costs/year for one (1) year is expected to be funded.  
• Funds are subject to availability.  

ELIGIBILITY RULES:  
1. A PI/Co-PI may submit only one (1) application in response to this RFA.  
2. Pilot Grant budget allocation for each institution must not be less than 30%.  
3. 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***  

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:  
Applications must include 1 PI from UCSD and 1 PI from SDSU (i.e., Co-PIs). Both Co-PIs MUST be MCC CCSG Members. All proposals must be submitted on the form(s) provided (see Submission Guidelines section) and conform to the specifications provided.  
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 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.
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. **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. Investigator must establish study feasibility (e.g., availability of suitable samples) to be included with the application.

**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

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**
The deadline is 5:00 PM PST, **Friday, May 29th, 2020**. The earliest starting date is **July 1st, 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](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 study costs, partial salary support for faculty investigators, trainee investigators (graduate students/postdocs), laboratory technicians, and other related study expenses. **Indirect costs (IDC)**, travel, professional meeting fees, salary support for administrative personnel, and equipment are **excluded**. A letter of institutional commitment from SDSU to waiving IDC must be included with the application.
EVALUATION CRITERIA:
The MCC Pilot Grants Program will appoint a Review Committee to conduct an NIH-style peer review of applications. The goal of the RFA is to advance our understanding of cancer and foster the development of new collaborative approaches toward cancer prevention, diagnosis, control, and treatment and to foster the development of new team science approaches across the institutions. The Review Committee will discuss 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.

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.

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 1-year 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 approval of a no-cost extension.

PROGRESS REPORTING AND CITATION REQUIREMENTS:
Detailed progress reports are required semi-annually for as long as the project is active. All progress reports must include accrual data and interim analysis. Continuation of second year funding, if applicable, is contingent upon the timely submission of a satisfactory and complete progress reports.

A final progress report (Impact Report) is due 30 days after the project end date and must include a description of future extramural grant applications to be submitted.

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: “UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, Specialized Cancer Center Support Grant NIH/NCI P30CA023100”
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 two (2) weeks to Angela Ballantyne (aballantyne@health.ucsd.edu) for review by the MCC Pilot Grants Program Steering Committee. The synthesis of annual Impact Reports will be the main mechanism for the public reporting of CCSG fund stewardship as well as institutional and community marketing purposes.

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

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