REQUEST FOR CCRF PROPOSALS IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

2019 GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF CCRF EMERGING SCIENTIST PROPOSALS

The Children’s Cancer Research Fund has made a gift to the University of Minnesota Pediatric BMT, Hem/Onc and Epidemiology Programs to support emerging scientists (basic, translational or clinical) within one of these three programs. Proposals are sought from post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows in Pediatric Hem/Onc/BMT, and PhD-candidates working within one of these three programs at the University of Minnesota. Applicants should be interested in ultimately establishing an independent, funded research career.

The purpose of the award is to support emerging scientists to pilot a novel idea / new research direction related to but distinct from the mentor’s planned direction that might not be explored otherwise. The project period should be one or two years in length with a maximum annual budget of $50,000 ($100,000 total budget if a two year project is proposed).

CRITERIA:

- The project should have direct research application to pediatric cancer or pediatric diseases treatable by BMT. This includes basic, translational, and clinical research. Examples include but are not limited to: discovery of the genetic basis of cancers; late-effects of treatment; population-based studies and susceptibility; investigations into new treatments in model systems or patient clinical trials; the cellular and molecular biology of cancers; cancer stem cells and treatment resistance.
- The project should be clearly distinct from the mentor’s current or planned research.
- Information generated from the completed research should ideally provide pilot data for future grant proposals and publication of results.

FULL PROPOSAL: The deadline for submission of full proposals is Friday, June 7, 2019 at 4:00pm. An electronic version of the proposal is to be submitted to: Rick Jacobson (rickj@umn.edu).

Funds awarded are anticipated to be available on or before August 1, 2019.

PROPOSALS:

- An outline for the proposal is provided below.
- Applicant may request 10% effort (maximum) and $3000 for travel funds used to present work emanating from the proposed project (accepted abstracts should be forwarded to Rick Jacobson)
- Questions related to this RFP should be directed in writing to Rick Jacobson (rickj@umn.edu)

PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS:

Project Outline
Applicants should include a one page summary of how the award would be used to accomplish the proposed research project. This should include a brief outline of the work scope, how it differs from existing work planned by the applicant and mentor, what the applicant hopes to discover, how the work applies to pediatric cancer research and/or pediatric diseases treatable by BMT. The award can be used for supplies/reagents, animal purchase and housing, additional training / coursework, purchase of books, in addition to salary and travel (as above). The outline should be written as if it were addressing a philanthropic donor who was interested in potentially funding the proposed research. Selected applicants will be asked to present their proposal to the CCRF Chief Medical Advisors so that they understand why this would be a wise investment, and how the money would be used to explore new ideas separate from those of the faculty mentor.

Project Budget
Applicants must include an itemized NIH-format budget and justification (maximum 2 pages).
Letter of Support
Applicants must provide a letter of support from their mentor that also confirms that the applicant will be allowed the necessary time to accomplish the goal(s) proposed. The letter of support must be included with the proposal.

Funds will be awarded to the emerging scientist who will have the discretion to spend according to the proposed plan and will be expected to attend bimonthly meetings with a departmental accountant and administrator to review spending and progress.

REVIEW:
- Proposals will be internally reviewed by the CCRF Chief Medical Advisors (Dr. Logan Spector, Dr. John Wagner and Dr. Brenda Weigel) for their potential scientific impact, innovation and rigor.
- Selected candidates will be required to present their project to the Chief Medical Advisors on Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

PROGRESS REPORT: For projects greater than one year in duration, a one-year progress report must be submitted electronically to Rick Jacobson (rickj@umn.edu) by June 30, 2020. The report will consist of:
  - A ½ to 1 page summary in lay language update of progress. The report should be written as if to update a donor of the project's progress to date. Written reports may be requested earlier at the discretion of CCRF.

FINAL REPORT: A final report with budget summary is due on June 30, 2020 for one year projects and June 30, 2021 for two year projects, or one month following completion of the project for those projects between one and two year in duration. All materials must be submitted electronically to Rick Jacobson (rickj@umn.edu). The final report will consist of:
  - A one to two-page final summary in lay language. A summary of financial expenditures will be provided by the Pediatric Department Accountant assigned to the project. The summary should include the purpose and results of the study, how the results will potentially impact patients, any discoveries or patents, papers published, national presentations, plans for grant submission, and future research directions.

PRESENTATION: Acceptance of an award implies agreement to present an update to faculty members from Pediatric BMT, Heme/Onc and Epidemiology at a CCRF Grant Retreat on campus in 2021 (and 2022 for two year awards); specific date to be determined. The presentation will focus on reporting success of completing stated aims, publications that resulted from work and grants submissions that utilize the data or results of the funded project. Emerging Scientists may be asked to meet individually with donors or potential donors to discuss the project and project results as arranged by CCRF.

*Failure to comply with Reporting Requirements may disqualify applicants from future CCRF grants.*