

## BENCH TO PRECLINICAL VALIDATION (BTPV) Request for Applications

A major function of the DLDCCC is translational research which represents a continuum from bench to bedside (BTB); operationally, translation can be conceptualized as two components on this continuum:

- Bench/discovery to preclinical validation---- facilitated by our SRs, TWG and DWGs
- Preclinical validation to the clinic---- facilitated by our SRs, DWGs and the IIT incubator

This RFA will focus on the first component: *Bench/discovery to preclinical validation*. At DLDCCC we have many high-quality SRs (some funded by CPRIT) that can facilitate preclinical validation and DWGs with collaborative clinical investigators to provide disease-specific expertise.

Research projects eligible for this award are:

- 1) Research aimed at translation of a scientific finding towards preclinical validation.
- 2) Optimization of preclinical work to support a clinical strategy.
- 3) Assessment of *existing* clinical samples to facilitate a clinical strategy (please email Dr. Eckhardt with your idea to confirm responsiveness to this RFA).

Eligible projects will:

- 1) Have a primary project leader that is a laboratory scientist (required); a second (optional) co-leader is allowed *only if he/she is an SR director*.
- 2) All leaders must be DLDCCC members.
- 3) *A clinical collaborator is required*. Please contact Dr. Eckhardt if this is needed.
- 4) This preclinical validation RFA is open to all translational oncology projects, but we encourage those that target our catchment area: breast, prostate, lung, colorectal, liver, cervical, and pediatric cancers.
- 5) Provide a timeline to demonstrate that preclinical validation is feasible within one year.
- 6) Proposals from current breast or lymphoma SPORE key personnel will not be supported as they have other mechanisms for translational support.

**Funding:** Budgets of up to \$100K for one year may be requested, with feasibility of extension by an additional \$50K based on progress at the end of year. We anticipate 2 solicitations of this RFA in 2025 (May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1st).

**Review:** Proposals will be reviewed by the DLDCCC Research Review Committee who will recommend applications for funding to the DLDCCC Executive Committee.

Review Criteria will include:

- 1) Strength of the scientific rationale and degree of innovation.
- 2) Feasibility of proposal to attain preclinical validation.
- 3) Likelihood of eventual translation to the clinic and obtaining subsequent funding.
- 4) Relevance to DLDCCC strategic goals and catchment area issues.

**Applications :** Applications should be submitted through the [DLDCCC Proposal Submission Portal](#) by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, with funding expected to be provided by July 2025.

The application should include:

- 1) Specific Aims – 1 page
- 2) Research Plan including Background, Innovation and Research Strategy – 3 pages
- 3) Timeline – 1 page
- 4) Budget justification – 1 page
- 5) NIH Bio sketches for project leaders

Questions about this RFA to Juhee “Julia” Hong [Juhee.hong@bcm.edu](mailto:Juhee.hong@bcm.edu) or Chris Horaist [chris.horaist@bcm.edu](mailto:chris.horaist@bcm.edu).

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