

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CATALYST AWARD (CiRCA) Request for Applications

Purpose: The DLDBCC seeks to catalyze the development of P01 and SPORE-like programmatic grants in the cancer area at BCM. These grants facilitate interactions among a group of faculties to accelerate discovery and clinical translation and can bring significant funding for research and infrastructure to the institution.

Funding: The DLDBCC will fund 1 to 2 groups with up to \$200,000 for one year.

Structure: The applications should anticipate a future P01 / SPORE or similar collaborative NIH application and be structured similarly with (typically) at least 3 projects and 1-3 supporting cores. The projects are expected to be interrelated and work toward a common over-arching goal, with synergies evident among the projects. Programs including investigators who have an established history of working together typically have an advantage.

Review: The DLDBCC will utilize a standing review committee to consider applications. In addition to standard NIH criteria (significance, approach etc), the committee will consider criteria used by the NIH to evaluate P01s such as synergy between the projects and the SPORES for clinical translation. In addition, proposals will be ranked on those most likely to result in a funded P01 or SPORE. Interactions among investigators in existing DLDBCC programs (intra or inter-programmatic) is a plus. Work in all areas of cancer research typically supported by the NCI will be considered.

Applications: Each application should include 3-4 Projects and up to 3 Cores assembled in order:

1. 1 page overview including title, overall goals and synergy of the program
2. Specific Aims with brief rationale and plan for each project (max 2 pages per project), plus separate references if needed)
3. Up to ½ page for each Core
4. Biosketches of all PIs, Project and Core leaders (standard NIH format)
5. Budget – 1 page
6. Brief budget justification – maximum 2 pages for whole program

Awarded programs will be expected to spend the funds within 1 year with a possible extension depending on progress/justification. Programs should be gearing toward submitting a P01 or SPORE application within 12-18 months of the CiRCA award.

Awarded programs will be given administrative support to put together the P01/ SPORE applications when ready to be submitted to the NCI/NIH from the DLDBCC.

Submission: Applications should be submitted through the [DLDBCC Proposal Submission Portal](#). The deadline is December 1, 2024. Funding is expected to commence on or around January 1, 2025.

Questions about the RFA to “Julia” Juhee Hong (juhee.hong@bcm.edu) or Chris Horaist (chris.horaist@bcm.edu).