

## Mini-Collaborative Research Catalyst Award (Mini-CiRCA) Request for Applications

**Purpose:** The DLDBCC seeks to catalyze the development of collaborative research that will seed multi-PI R01-type grants at BCM. Ideally, this will facilitate interactions among two faculty to forge new collaborations that accelerate discovery.

**Funding:** The DLDBCC will fund up to 2-3 groups with up to \$100,000 for one year.

**Structure:** The objective is for two principal investigators to work together on a common goal to generate preliminary data and develop a collaborative relationship that will eventually formulate the basis of a new R01-type cancer-related application.

**Review:** The DLDBCC will utilize a standing review committee to consider applications. The two PIs should not yet have a funded or published collaboration on this topic, though prior collaborative efforts may have been initiated. In addition to standard NIH criteria (significance, approach etc.) the review committee will look for potential for future joint funding potential. Work in all areas of cancer research typically supported by the NCI will be considered. Preference will be given to collaborations between investigators who have not worked together previously, but new collaborative topics between investigators who have a working history will also be considered. Applications that include junior investigators are highly encouraged.

**Applications:** Each application should include 1 collaborative Project and be assembled as one PDF in the following order:

1. 1 page overview including title, name and affiliations of PIs and abstract (100 words max).
2. Specific Aims with brief rationale and plan for collaboration (max 2 pages) (refs separate).
3. Statement about the collaboration, including its background, the contribution of both PIs to the project, and how this will lead to future funding opportunities. ½ page max. If the investigators have been funded together in the past, the statement should make clear how this project is distinct from previous work.
4. Biosketches of PIs (standard NIH format)
5. Budget – 1 page – indicating distribution of funds to the two participating labs
6. Brief budget justification – maximum 1 page.

Awarded projects will be expected to spend the funds within 1 year with a possible extension depending on progress/justification. Programs should be gearing toward submitting an R01 or similar within 12-18 months of the Mini-CiRCA award.

PIs may be involved in more than one collaborative application.

**Submission:** Applications should be submitted through the [DLDBCC Proposal Submission Portal](#). The deadline is April 2, 2025. Funding is expected to commence on or around July 1, 2025. Questions about the RFA to “Julia” Juhee Hong ([juhee.hong@bcm.edu](mailto:juhee.hong@bcm.edu)) or Chris Horaist ([chris.horaist@bcm.edu](mailto:chris.horaist@bcm.edu)).