

Call for Letters of Intent Aging Institute and Hillman Cancer Center Seed Grant Pilot Funding Program

Funded by the:

Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services and the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Purpose: This joint FY2019 Aging Institute and Hillman Cancer Center Seed Grant program seeks to fund team-based, transdisciplinary, basic, translational or clinical pilot proposals that focus on the intersection of cancer and aging.

The Theme for the FY19 Seed Grant Program is Aging and Cancer

This year's Call for Letters of Intent is intended to solicit innovative proposals demonstrating research collaborations focusing on the intersection between cancer and aging. Proposals can draw from the full spectrum of disciplines, across the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC, from basic biology, clinical and translational approaches, epidemiological, psychosocial, health sciences, health policy and health services research. Proposals pairing basic science research with clinical/translational teams are strongly encouraged, as are proposals involving interprofessional collaborations between at least two different schools within the University of Pittsburgh or UPMC

Priority will be given to projects that:

1. promote interprofessional and team science collaborations across the University of Pittsburgh or UPMC, or that demonstrate a collaboration between a basic and clinical scientist. Examples could include:
 - a basic and clinical scientist proposing and validating a new biological-based marker of human aging that may be informative for determining cancer pre-disposition.
 - the role of cellular senescence in tumor initiation or progression
 - the use of anti-aging therapies (e.g. metformin) in treating or preventing cancer.
 - the relationship of age as a determinant of cost-effectiveness for emerging cancer therapeutics
 - relationship between the mutational load of a tumor type and its age-dependency.
 - validation of determinants of resilience to cancer therapies in older adults
 - reduction of risk for multimorbidity in older cancer survivors
2. involve early-stage investigators
3. involve investigators who wish to extend their work into the field of aging or cancer biology

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Pilot projects are intended to permit the generation of preliminary data for a larger proposal. These projects could serve for initial tests of feasibility or to support entry into a novel area of research where there is little background information. Proposals demonstrating collaboration between investigators from different disciplines and schools, or between basic and clinical scientists will be given priority.

Eligibility:

1. The proposal must have either a single Principal Investigator or two co-Principal Investigators. Preference will be given for involvement of an early-stage investigator as one of the Principal Investigators. PIs should not have received an award from the Aging Institute Seed Grant Pilot Funding Program in the previous fiscal year cycle.
2. All awarded pilot investigators and research team members must demonstrate current ethics training certification.
3. Application is open to independent investigators at all academic levels within the University of Pittsburgh or UPMC

Funding:

**A total of \$100,000 is available for the FY19 Seed Grant funding program
Four awards each of approximately \$25,000 are anticipated
Funds are for direct costs of the project and are restricted to use for supplies and technical support only. No funds may be used for investigator effort.**

The Letter of Intent should include the following:

- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Name, address, and telephone number of the Principal Investigator(s)
- Participating institutions/departments/schools
- Potential matching funding, if applicable (matching funds are not a requirement for funding)
- NIH-format biographical sketch of all investigators
- One page summary to include:
 - The background, importance and impact of the work
 - Description of strength of collaboration
 - Specific aims with brief summary of methods and experimental design
 - Overview of plans for independent funding
 - Total amount and duration (1 or 2 years) of funding request
- References cited

Submitted proposals will be reviewed with an emphasis on the scientific merit of the research, the overall innovative or novel nature of the project, the level of cross-disciplinary interactions, and the likelihood that the work will lead to external funding.

**The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent is Thursday, June 20, 2019.
Submissions are due to Taafoi Kamara, submitted as one electronic file to
kamarats@upmc.edu**