COWBOYS FOR CANCER RESEARCH: PILOT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

New Mexico State University announces the availability of pilot project funds to NMSU faculty and staff through the Cowboys for Cancer Research organization in Las Cruces, NM. The purpose of this grant program is to encourage development of investigator-initiated and collaborative research projects involving basic, preclinical, clinical, and translational cancer research.

Research projects that focus on understanding the causes and developing new cures for cancer are invited, and can include, but are not limited to, investigations in the areas of cancer biology, discovery of cancer biomarkers, molecular targets, novel drugs, new technologies for detection, diagnosis and drug delivery, cancer epidemiology and prevention, cancer health disparities, overcoming barriers to cancer screening and cancer care, cancer behavioral sciences, and comparative effectiveness. Single and multiple principal investigator (PI) applications are allowed. Projects that involve multiple departments and colleges and those involving collaboration with investigators from the University of New Mexico Cancer Center with a high potential for transformational discoveries and future competitive external funding are encouraged. Researchers funded in 2014 are eligible to apply again for the 2015 cycle.

Projects selected for funding will be announced during the 12th Annual C4CR Dinner Dance & Silent Auction, which will be held on Friday, October 9, 2015. Grantees may be requested to participate in and/or publicly present research outcomes in association with future C4CR events.

Funding Amount: Maximum budget of $50,000 in direct costs for a 1-year duration (indirect rates/F&A should not be included)

Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 5

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2015, at 5:00 pm MDT

Earliest Start Date: November 1, 2015

Email Address for Submissions: c4c@research.nmsu.edu

Contacts: Jeff Arterburn (jarterbu@nmsu.edu) for scientific/technical queries; Sudha Murthy (smurthy@nmsu.edu) for administrative/process queries
Proposal Instructions

Format: Please use standard NIH fonts and size (e.g., Arial, 11 point) and ½” margins for all documents. **Submit all of the required information in the order listed below, and as a single PDF.** The file name should be the lead PI’s last name.

Proposal Requirements: Pilot grant applications must include

1. **Cover page** (1 page; please use form provided)
   
   Provide project title, names and affiliations of the principal investigator(s) and other key personnel, total direct cost requested, and start and end dates for the project.

   **Project Summary/Abstract (up to 30 lines of text)**
   
   State the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims and describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. This section should be a self-contained description of the project informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader and suitable for dissemination to the public.

2. **Specific Aims** (not to exceed one page)
   
   State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel research design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, develop new technology, and/or impact local health problems through innovative community-based participatory research strategies.

3. **Research Strategy** (not to exceed four pages), including
   
   **Significance**
   
   State the importance of the problem or need that the proposed project addresses, including how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, clinical practice, research training, educational practices, community-based participatory research impacts, and/or eliminate health disparities

   **Innovation**
   
   Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe and identify any advantages of novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, collaborations, interventions, or other contributions that will be developed.

   **Approach**
   
   Describe research methods and provide a project timeline, interim milestones, and specific plans for publications, presentations, and submission of future extramural grant application

4. **Literature Cited** (no page limit)
5. **NIH Format Biographical Sketch** (four-page maximum per individual)
   Provide for principal and co-principal investigators
   See [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html) for format

6. **Budget**
   Use attached template

7. **Budget Justification**

8. **Include the following sections where applicable**
   Protection of Human Subjects; Inclusion of Women and Minorities; Targeted/Planned Enrollment; Inclusion of Children; Vertebrate Animals; Select Agent Research; Multiple PI Plan

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Evaluation Process

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Scientific Approach (includes significance, approach, and innovation)**
   - **Significance**
     Does this study address an important problem consonant with the objectives of Cowboys for Cancer Research? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field of cancer research and/or research on cancer disparities?
   - **Approach**
     Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
   - **Innovation**
     Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

2. **Feasibility**
   Is the investigator(s) appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)? Is there evidence of collaboration and partnership?

3. **Relevance**
   To what extent might this project have an impact on New Mexico cancer treatment or prevention?

4. **Compatibility with C4CR Goals**
   To what extent does the project address development of cancer research? To what extent does the project focus on important questions in cancer treatment or cancer prevention?

5. **Future Extramural Funding**
   Is the project likely to lead to independent funding?