



## **Request For Applications (RFA): Pre-Pilot Study Funding Opportunity U54 TUFCCC/HC Regional Comprehensive Cancer Health Disparity Partnership**

Despite advances in cancer treatment and research, there are significant cancer health disparities among underserved populations. Temple University Fox Chase Cancer Center and Hunter College Regional Comprehensive Cancer Health Disparity Partnership (TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership, Contact PIs: Grace X. Ma, PhD; Olorunseun Ogunwobi, MD, PhD) is a collaborative effort to develop a regional comprehensive and collaborative cancer health equity research infrastructure in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York City Region and establish rigorous and sustainable cancer research, education and outreach programs at both institutions. This Partnership is funded through a U54 grant from the National Cancer Institute. The mission of the TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership is to reduce cancer health disparities among underserved populations and to address needs for career development in cancer disparities research among junior investigators and students, especially those from underrepresented populations.

The TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership will provide funding opportunities to support transformative, cancer-focused pre-pilot research studies. Applications will be accepted for studies led by junior researchers from multiple disciplines, including basic, behavioral, and clinical sciences. This RFA is limited to proposals from researchers based at Temple University, Fox Chase Cancer Center, and Hunter College. This document provides details for preparing applications in response to the RFA.

### **FUNDING AVAILABLE**

We anticipate funding 8 to 10 pre-pilot studies. Pre-pilot studies are earlier stage, formative projects that collect preliminary data or explore research methods to be used for subsequent pilot study applications. Proposals may request \$5,000 - \$10,000 per project for 1 year (direct costs ONLY).

### **PRE-PILOT APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

Investigators of pre-pilot study proposals may be graduate students, post-doctoral researchers or junior faculty. Applicants from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Senior research mentors may also be included in proposals, but no salary support can be requested. This RFA is limited to proposals from researchers based at Temple University (TU), Fox Chase Cancer Center (FCCC), and Hunter College (HC).

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Using NIH review process and criteria, the Project Review Panel will take a global view of the scientific merit and potential importance of each application using the following criteria:

- Impact on problems related to cancer for underserved populations
- Innovation of the research question and/or design;
- Demonstration of potential for future research grant applications;
- Use of a multidisciplinary approach and collaboration among TUFCCC/HC investigators and community members/organizations;
- Promote research performed by early stage investigators (ESIs) and trainees from diverse backgrounds.
- Discussion of how research findings will be leveraged to obtain subsequent funding for future research.
- Junior investigator applicants should include senior research mentor(s) in the application.

All grantees will ensure that studies involving human subjects comply with federal, state, and local regulations and are safe for the participants. We expect that findings from funded studies will be disseminated through peer-reviewed publications and professional presentations. Proposals will be reviewed by the TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership Project Review Panel. This panel is composed of external expert reviewers.

### **AWARD PROCESS**

#### ***Letter of Intent***

Individuals planning to submit a pre-pilot proposal are required to initially submit a *Pre-Pilot Project Intent to Submit Form*. The deadline for submission of this form is March 1, 2020.

### ***Proposal Submission***

Pre-pilot proposals will be limited to 1 single-spaced page for specific aims and 2 single-spaced pages for research strategy, describing significance, innovation, and approach of the study. The specific aims and research strategy will use half-inch margins and font size no smaller than 11-point Arial. The list of references is not included in the page limits.

The final electronic application must discuss: the specific aims, goals, and hypotheses of the proposed research project; the contribution of the proposed study to the cancer disparities issue being addressed and to the specified community or population; methods to be used; the role of key personnel and mentors with NIH formatted biographical sketches for each; timeline and monitoring/evaluation plan for the proposed project, including bi-annual deliverables to be submitted; and documentation of submission (or intent to submit) to the IRB for approval or exemption. Applications should also include plans for how the pre-pilot study could form the basis for subsequent larger-scale externally-funded proposals.

In addition, an abstract of no more than 250 words must also be included; optional letters of support from community organizations or stakeholders may also be part of the submission. We especially invite projects that are collaborative (between Temple University, Fox Chase Cancer Center, and Hunter College) and multidisciplinary with a high potential for broad impact and for future extramural funding.

A separate itemized budget and budget justification (no more than 2 pages) must also be submitted as part of the application. Inclusion of community-based individuals is encouraged.

### **TIMELINE**

February 17, 2020: RFA opens for submissions  
March 1, 2020: Deadline for Intent-to-submit form  
March 27, 2020: Deadline for submission of proposals

### **Submit Intent-to-submit form to:**

Anastasia Roebuck  
Administrative Coordinator  
[anastasia.roebuck@temple.edu](mailto:anastasia.roebuck@temple.edu)  
215-707-5648

### **Submit completed proposal (as a single PDF with the filename prepilot\_lastname) to:**

Anastasia Roebuck  
Administrative Coordinator  
[anastasia.roebuck@temple.edu](mailto:anastasia.roebuck@temple.edu)