



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

Despite advances in cancer prevention and treatment, there are significant cancer health disparities among underserved racial/ethnic minority 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 integrative 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 and vision of the TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership is to reduce cancer health disparities among underserved populations, address the needs for career development in cancer disparities research among junior investigators and students, including those from underrepresented populations and to promote inclusive ***excellence and break systemic barriers in cancer health disparities research***, education, community outreach and engagement, and infrastructure capacity building.

The TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership will provide funding opportunities to support transformative, cancer-focused pilot research studies. Applications will be accepted for studies led by junior investigators from multiple disciplines, including basic, behavioral, and clinical sciences. Applications that include research focused on addressing cancer health disparities in Black/African American, Asian, or Hispanic/Latinx populations are encouraged. In addition, this year, we welcome applications that will evaluate impact of our TUFCCC/HC Partnership activities at all levels (e.g. institutional, local, regional). This document provides details for preparing applications in response to the RFA.

### **FUNDING AVAILABLE**

We anticipate funding only proposals with high scientific merit. Pilot studies are research projects that use qualitative and/or quantitative methods to collect initial data, analyze secondary data, and/or test research methodologies, and provide the basis for subsequent proposals for additional support from larger, external funding sources to continue this research. Proposals may request \$10,000 - \$15,000 per project for 1 year (direct costs ONLY).

### **PILOT APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

Investigators of pilot study proposals may be early-stage investigators (ESIs), including post-doctoral researchers or junior faculty. Applicants from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Senior faculty research mentors should be included in proposals, but they will receive no salary support. 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 the 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 cancer health disparity issues related to 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 from diverse backgrounds.

- Discussion of how research findings will be leveraged to obtain subsequent funding for future research.
- Priority will be given to applicants that have mentors from both TUFCCC and HC.
- Individual Development Plan (IDP) that includes publication and future funding plan (maximum one page included in the appendix) should be included. Publication plan should include the applicant as first author on a minimum of one publication.

All awardees 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 external expert review panel of the TUFCCC/HC Cancer Partnership.

## **AWARD PROCESS**

### ***Proposal Submission***

Pilot proposals will be limited to 1 single-spaced page for specific aims and 6 single-spaced pages for the 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 format 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 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 in proposals is encouraged.

### **TIMELINE**

February 01, 2023: RFA posted date

March 15, 2023: Application due date

May 01, 2023: Tentative date for announcement of awards

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

Anastasia Roebuck

Administrative Coordinator

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215-707-5648