

## Request for Applications: “Pilot Grants in HIV/AIDS-Related Malignancy Research”

The Penn Center for AIDS Research and the Abramson Cancer Center are pleased to announce this Request for Applications for pilot grants for research in HIV/AIDS-related malignancies. This opportunity has been made possible by supplemental funds (\$250,000 Total Costs) provided by the National Cancer Institute.

The purpose of this RFA is to encourage and support research in basic, clinical, and epidemiologic aspects of HIV-related malignancies, with a particular emphasis on proposals that have a translational component. Faculty who are members of the Penn-CFAR or ACC at the University of Pennsylvania, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, or the Wistar Institute are eligible. In addition, preference will be given to applications that build collaborations between members of the CFAR and either of the two NCI-funded Cancer Centers on our campus (the Abramson Cancer Center and the Wistar Cancer Center).

An overview of Key Dates and General Information for the Application are listed below:

|                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>RFA Announcement:</b>            | <b>December 1, 2009</b>  |
| <b>Application Submission Date:</b> | <b>February 1, 2010</b>  |
| <b>Projected Review Date:</b>       | <b>February 21, 2010</b> |
| <b>Anticipated Start Date:</b>      | <b>March 1, 2010</b>     |

### **Overview and General Information**

**Mechanism of Support.** Funding for this pilot grant awards program has been made possible by a one-year grant of supplemental funds from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health.

**Funds Available, Amount Per Award, and Anticipated Number of Awards.** Funds for up to \$40,000 in Direct Costs per application will be available. It is anticipated that 4 applications will be awarded.

**Eligibility.** Applicants must be full-time faculty members at any of the CFAR’s participating institutions, the University of Pennsylvania, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, or the Wistar Institute. Non-faculty trainees and instructors are eligible to be included as co-investigators, and mentoring relationships between faculty and trainees are encouraged. Priority for funding will be given to applications that establish collaborative research activities between CFAR and Cancer Center members.

**Application format and materials.** Application formats should follow PHS 398 form pages and formatting including: Face Page (FP 1); Abstract/Key Personnel (FP2); Budget (Direct Costs) for the one year funding period (FP 4); Budget Justification; NIH 3-page Bio-Sketches of Key Personnel that include Other Support; Resources Page; Experimental Plan (see below); and Literature Cited. Sections for Use of Human Subjects and/or animals should be included using NIH guidelines. Letters of support demonstrating collaborative activities between CFAR and Cancer Center members are required.

The Experimental Plan should include Specific Aims, Background & Significance, and Experimental Design and should total no more than 4 pages using PHS 398-approved formats and fonts. Preliminary Results are not required but may be included.

*Application submission.* Applications and supporting materials should be submitted by email as a single PDF file and as a single hard copy with original signatures **no later than 5 p.m. February 1, 2009** to Ashley Sonson of the Penn CFAR: [asonson@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:asonson@mail.med.upenn.edu) Rm 353, Biomedical Research Building II/III, 421 Curie Blvd.

### **Research Areas**

A wide range of research projects in HIV/AIDS related malignancies that foster collaborative activities between CFAR and Cancer Center (Abramson Cancer Center and Wistar Cancer Center) members is sought for this Pilot Grant Awards Program. New and innovative areas are encouraged, and priority for funding will be given to projects that, as a result of this award, can lead to subsequent NIH funding mechanisms (e.g. R21, RO1, etc.). Suggested scientific areas include (but are not limited to) those listed below:

- (1) Developing and utilizing relevant models to study disease pathogenesis of the prevalent viral agents (i.e., KSHV/HHV-8, EBV, HCV and HPV) found in AIDS-defining cancers;
- (2) Discovering and characterizing new viral and other microbiological agents that act as co-factors in tumor promotion and/or progression;
- (3) Developing and utilizing predictive models for the preclinical evaluation of new therapies for HIV-associated malignancies;
- (4) Developing therapeutic strategies for HIV-associated malignancies based on the roles of infectious agents in their pathogenesis;
- (5) Developing preclinical applications to translate basic knowledge of HIV-associated malignancies towards the development of new treatments for patients with these diseases in a national or international setting;
- (6) Defining the molecular epidemiology of HIV-associated cancers and their pre-neoplastic conditions;
- (7) Discovering, developing, and utilizing biomarkers of cancer risk, progression, and/or response to treatment, including immunologic and epigenetic markers and markers that change during the course of disease (e.g., cytokines or viral load);
- (8) Discovering new modifiable factors that contribute to disease development.

Applicants who plan to submit applications for research projects outside the U.S. are strongly advised to contact, Dr. James Hoxie (Director, Penn CFAR) [hoxie@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:hoxie@mail.med.upenn.edu) or Erle Robertson (Director, ACC Tumor Virology Program) **prior to** the submission of their application.

Questions concerning application submission can be directed to:

### **Ashley Sonson**

Administrative Coordinator, Penn CFAR

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