

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Population Science Pilot Project Awards

Maximum Award: \$30,000

Deadline: **Wednesday, September 23, 2009**

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC) seeks applications from Cancer Center members and other University of Iowa researchers to support development of cancer research which is population based.

Proposals incorporating molecular epidemiology are of particular interest.

The intent of this process is to assist investigators in the design and initiation of innovative research projects that have a high likelihood of leading to external peer-reviewed funding and to establish ongoing collaborations among researchers interested in studying cancer. This includes planning grants for preparation of larger research proposals.

The usual pilot project duration is one year, with the potential for a second year of funding based on competitive re-evaluation after the first year and completion of evaluation milestones. The funding level for each pilot project may vary. The HCCC will facilitate protocol development support and ongoing biostatistics consultation at a reduced charge for cancer center members. It is expected that a minimum of two awards will be made.

Applications focused in the following areas are encouraged:

- Health Services & Economics
- Outcomes
- Risk Factor Monitoring & Method
- Applied Cancer Screening
- Basic & Biobehavioral
- Health Communications & Informatics
- Health Promotion
- Tobacco Control
- Epidemiology & Genetics & Biomarkers
- Surveillance
- Survivorship
- Dissemination & Diffusion
- Planning Grants

Eligibility:

- All faculty, conducting independent research, are invited to apply.

- Both junior and senior-level faculty members are eligible for these awards.
- Either the P.I. or a co-investigator must be a member of the HCCC.
- Collaborative efforts including investigators with varied backgrounds are encouraged.

Application Process:

Investigators interested in applying for funding are encouraged to discuss their research with Population Sciences' leadership, collaborate with Population Science researchers, and make use of HCCC core resources. A maximum of \$30,000 dollars may be awarded. Budgets of \$10, 000 or less require only a letter of concept (step 1). Budgets over \$10,000 will require a full proposal if letter of concept is deemed meritorious.

All projects must comply in full with the NIH policies concerning research on human subjects and/or animals. Documentation of protocol approval by the appropriate institutional committee and HIPAA regulations will be required at the appropriate time. Copies of all assurances and certifications must be given to the HCCC administration before funds can be allocated.

Step I. Letter of Concept: The letter-of-concept should include the following information:

- Overview of the proposed project, including approximate number of subjects, key study methods, and a study timeline.
- Area of expertise of principal investigator as well as collaborating investigators and staff.
- Potential of the project for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Clear indication of the relevance of the research to cancer and potential for at least translational application of the findings to or from community practice.
- Statement of how the proposed project will lead to full research projects with funding potential.
- Optional: A budget up to \$10,000 with justification of how money is to be used.
- The 1-2 page electronic-letter should be addressed to Dr. Elizabeth Chrischilles, Associate Director, Population Science.
- The letter should be sent electronically to Bradley McDowell, Program Coordinator, Population Science at: Bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu

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Notification Date to submit Full Proposal: It is anticipated that applicants will be notified in **October** or shortly thereafter.

Step II. Invited Full Proposals: Investigators with meritorious letters-of-concept that meet program goals, will be invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals must include:

1. **Title Page:** A cover page that lists the primary investigator, his degrees, title of the research project, departmental address, phone number, and e-mail.
2. **Summary-Abstract:** In no more than one page, this section shall include the project title, specific aims, methods, and anticipated outcomes.
3. **Research Proposal Narrative:** This portion of the full proposal is limited to a maximum of six single-spaced pages (not including citations). No font size smaller than 11-pitch shall be used. The proposal should include the following:
 - a. Specific aims (no more than one paragraph).
 - b. Brief rationale for the project and summary of prior relevant work.
 - c. Relevance to cancer control and population science.

- d. Expanded version of methods. Please include any particular challenges you anticipate. Note collaborations with other faculty, both inside and outside the institution. Note use of any HCCC shared resources. Also, include a brief timeline with project milestones.
 - e. Promise of future funding in the area of cancer control & population science (≥ 1 paragraph).
4. **Budget with Justification:** The section shall outline expenditures for the project (supplies, technical assistance, other expenses). Funds may not be used for travel, faculty salaries, or for equipment. Protocol development support and ongoing biostatistics consultation is available at no/low charge to successful applicants. Applicants should consult with the Program Coordinator Bradley McDowell to identify possible support from the Population Data Research Core Facility for services such as sample selection, recruitment, Teleform design, database design & development, and specimen collection. Please remember that the total budget (steps 1 and 2) is not to exceed \$30,000.
 5. **Biographical sketch and Research Support:** Please submit this information for the primary investigator and other key personnel in NIH format and within a four-page limit).
 6. **Support Letters:** Submit letters of support as appropriate.

Review Criteria

Invited proposals will also undergo a formal peer-review process by an HCCC review committee. Funding preference will be given to the most innovative projects on the leading edge of research that can be applied to cancer control and population science.

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Relevance to cancer control and population science
- Scientific merit/quality, including adequacy of design and proposed statistical analyses and originality and innovativeness of the proposal
- Interdisciplinary collaborations
- Qualifications of the key personnel and their ability to complete the project as proposed
- Degree to which the project addresses an issue of significant importance within cancer research, including issues related to incidence, prevention, early detection, mortality, therapy, survival and quality of life
- Promise for the project to advance to a peer-reviewed, externally funded research project

Contacts:

- To ask general questions or to make inquiries about the applications process please contact, Population Science Program Coordinator, Bradley McDowell (Bradley-mcdowell@uiowa.edu)
- To discuss specific research ideas, please contact Associate Director for Population Science, Dr. Betsy Chrischilles: e-chrischilles@uiowa.edu