May 8, 2018

To: Faculty
    Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and
    Bloomberg School of Public Health

From: William G. Nelson, MD, PhD
      John D Groopman, PhD

Re: CRF Cancer Grant Fiscal Year 2018 Solicitation

Applications are being requested for funding from The Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) research grant to Johns Hopkins. Funded awards will begin July 1, 2017 and end June 30, 2018.

These research grants are intended to improve the cancer burden in Maryland, eliminate disparities, and address lung, oral, prostate, breast, cervix, colon/rectum cancers or melanoma. State priorities are amenable to funding and found in the 2016-20 Cancer Plan at the website, http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/cancer/cancerplan/Documents/MD%20Cancer%20Program_508C%20with%20cover.pdf. They may be basic science, clinical, or population-based research. Transdisciplinary cancer prevention and control projects are especially encouraged as are research projects that are matured by an NIH proposal.

We are priority funding new faculty (within three years of appointment on July 1, 2016) and translational research projects from established investigators oriented to the study of issues that affect the SKCCC catchment area (Maryland) and that have the potential to improve outcomes. Some topics that might be considered are:

- Markers of cancer risk
- Cancer burden studies of the SKCCC catchment area (MD/Baltimore)
- Evaluation of population exposures to environmental hazards
- Tobacco cessation, implementation and policy studies
- Studies to optimize outreach in special needs populations
- Research that reveals the nature of a cancer disparity (racial, gender-based, geographical, etc.)

Priority will be given to proposals that:
1. collect pilot data as proof of principle or are high risk, novel ideas that have no other source of funding;
2. have good future or current funding prospects but could not be accomplished without pilot data, (note, applications that have been submitted to and/or reviewed by an external funder are high priority);
3. involve investigators representing two or the three categories of cancer research (basic, clinical or population science); or
4. partner with Maryland biotechnology companies.

Proposals are due June 1, 2017 and should follow the attached instructions.
Average faculty awards are targeted at $100,000 and translational research projects at up to $100,000. The number of awards made will depend on the funds made available by the state for FY17, though at this time we anticipate up to 22 can be funded.

Questions may be addressed to Norma Kanarek, PhD at nkanarek@jhsph.edu or (410)955-3758.
MISSION

The mission of this program is to recruit high-quality faculty who will contribute to the cancer prevention and control research program at Johns Hopkins and whose translational research is targeted towards the reduction of Maryland’s morbidity and mortality in especially the state’s targeted cancers including, lung, colorectal, breast, prostate, melanoma, oral and cervical cancers. NCI defines translational research as the movement of a laboratory discovery into a patient or population research setting or the movement of an observation in patients or populations into a laboratory research environment. Faculty whose research is focused on elimination of morbidity and mortality in Maryland minority populations are a high priority.

REVIEW PROCESS

Drs. William Nelson and John Groopman and others will review applications for this program. Review criteria include, quality and innovation of the scientific proposal and relevance to the mission of the research program at Maryland’s academic medical centers established by the Cigarette Restitution Fund. Successful applicants may be required to submit brief progress reports on the use of these funds or at project site visits.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR
FACULTY RECRUITMENT OR RETENTION

Cover sheet including:
1. Title of project and name, address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address of applicant. Name and contact information for the faculty administrator
2. Indication of whether it is a new or renewal application
3. Which designation is sought: Recruitment (<3 years since appointment) or Retention award
4. Category of research (choose one of following):
   - behavior sciences, genetic epidemiology, cancer epidemiology, molecular genetics of cancer, viral oncology/vaccine development, health services research, or clinical or translational research which contributes to community-focused cancer research

Body of Grant:
5. Goals of the faculty member related to the mission of this program
6. Time commitment to this project
7. Description of translational research project (see mission statement for definition of translational research)
8. Description of how minority and high risk groups will or will not be targeted
9. Plan for developing this line of research, including external funding. Attach proposal for a prior funding application, if applicable, and if available, the reviewers’ comments.
10. NIH 398 Biographical Form

Note: The total length of the proposal should not exceed two pages. Applications must be written in a font size of 10 or greater. Any applications in which the two page maximum is exceeded will not be reviewed.

Budget Request:
11. NIH 398 Budget Form

Sponsor Information:
12. Letter of support (usually from the department chair) outlining resources available to faculty member. Letter should also describe other sources of support for the recruitment or for the project.
13. NIH 398 Budget Form

Submit to:
Norma Kanarek, Ph.D., Executive Director
Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund Grant and Associate Professor
The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health
Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Room E7541
615 North Wolfe Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Phone: (410) 955-3758
Fax: (410) 955-0617
Email: nkanarek@jhsph.edu
APPLICATION FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING
ESTABLISHED BY THE MARYLAND CIGARETTE RESTITUTION FUND

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a result of the establishment of Maryland’s Cigarette Restitution Fund, the legislature has enacted a law, SB 896/HB 1425, creating a Statewide Academic Health Center Cancer Research Grant to Johns Hopkins University. The Cancer Research Grant is administered by the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Cancer Center. Uses of these funds are restricted and among these uses we may develop a research program for “cancer surveillance and epidemiology, including: (i) development of a comprehensive list of cancer-causing agents; (ii) compilation and mapping of sources of exposure; (iii) a focus on the unique cultural and other factors related to delays in treatment and lack of access in care and treatment in underserved urban and rural communities; (iv) improved understanding of cancer risk factors and how they impact on the State’s unique cancer statistics” and (v) health services research.

MISSION

The mission of this pilot research program targets epidemiological, translational and population-based research in high priority cancer sites identified by the State including lung, colorectal, breast, prostate, melanoma, oral and cervical cancers. Research focused on reduction of morbidity and mortality in State minority populations is a high priority.

VISION

The cancer prevention and control program at the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Cancer Center will implement for competitive funding, a translational research grants program encouraging research for pilot projects that ultimately have a high potential of reducing the impact of cancer on Maryland residents and of earning external funding to develop the area of research.

REVIEW PROCESS

Drs. John Groopman and William Nelson and others will review applications for this program. Review criteria include, quality and innovation of the scientific proposal and the relevance to the mission of the program established by the Cigarette Restitution Fund. Successful applicants will also be required to submit brief progress reports on the use of these funds on a semi-annual basis.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Cover Sheet including:
1. Title of project and name, address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address of applicant.
2. Indication of whether it is a new or renewal application.
3. Category of research (choose one or more of the following, as appropriate):
   Development of a comprehensive list of cancer-causing agents; compilation and mapping of sources of exposure; a focus on the unique cultural and other factors related to delays in treatment and lack of access in care and treatment in underserved urban and rural communities; improved understanding of cancer risk factors and how they impact on the State’s unique cancer statistics; and health services research.

Body of Grant:
4. Specific aim or aims (no abstract needed)
5. Background, including preliminary studies of applicant
6. Experimental plan (refer to previous publications of applicant whenever possible)
7. Description of endpoints of translational research. NCI defines translational research as the movement of a laboratory discovery into a patient or population research setting or the movement of an observation in patients or populations into a laboratory research environment.
8. Plan for developing this line of research, including external funding. Attach funding application, source of funding sought, and if available, the reviewers’ comments.

Note: The total length of the specific aims, background, and experimental plan sections combined should not exceed two pages. Applications must be written in a font size of 10 or greater. Any applications in which the two page maximum is exceeded will not be reviewed.

Additional Materials:
9. Progress report (for renewal applications only: 1 page maximum)
10. Relevant publications of applicant: No more than 10
11. Budget: NIH 398 budget page
12. Current and pending funding: Carefully indicate reasons for non-overlap.

Submit to:
Norma Kanarek, Ph.D., Executive Director
Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund Grant and
Associate Professor
The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Room e7541
615 North Wolfe Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

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