

**UC Brain Tumor Center Molecular Therapeutics Program
Request for Applications**

The UC Brain Tumor Center (BTC) invites applications to support new and continuing research projects working to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of brain tumors. Through the Molecular Therapeutics Pilot (MTP) Grant Program, the BTC offers two \$50,000 pilot awards to accelerate research in one or more areas of interest including (but not limited to):

- Primary Brain Tumors – glioblastoma, low-grade glioma, medulloblastoma, etc.
- Metastatic Brain Tumors – derived from sites such as lung, breast, melanoma, kidney tumors.
- Pediatric or Adult brain tumors.
- Novel therapeutics, anti-tumor immunity, tumor-initiating cells, genomics, metabolism, mouse modeling.
- Mechanistic, biomarker, preclinical, and/or translational research.

Introduction

An estimated 78,000 new cases of primary brain tumors will be diagnosed in the United States in 2016, and an estimated 170,000 patients will be diagnosed with brain metastases, most often from lung cancer, breast cancer, and melanoma. Patients with primary malignant brain tumors and brain metastases often experience significant neurologic disability, impaired quality of life, and reduced survival. Recent advances such as image-guided surgery, brain mapping, chemotherapy, and stereotactic radiosurgery have improved the outcome from this disease. However, the relative 5-year survival rate following diagnosis of a primary malignant brain tumor is 35%, and the average survival of metastatic brain tumor patients remains at approximately six months. A better understanding of how and why primary tumors develop in the brain, and why cancers metastasize to the brain, will allow us to develop specific therapies to treat brain tumors, and possibly prevent their formation.

The **UC Brain Tumor Center** at the University of Cincinnati Gardner Neuroscience Institute announces its fifth **Molecular Therapeutics Pilot Grant Program** to accelerate basic and translational research of **primary** and **metastatic** brain tumors.

Successful applicants will receive:

- One of two available pilot grants: \$50,000 for one year
- Access to the UC Brain Tumor Center patient database (IRB approval required)
- Access to the UC Cancer Institute brain tumor tissue bank (approval required)
- Guidance from UC Brain Tumor Center physicians to help translate laboratory discoveries to Phase I/II clinical trials

**UC Brain Tumor Center
Molecular Therapeutics Pilot Grant Program
2016/2017**



Goals of the Pilot Grant Program

- To facilitate and expand basic and translational research in primary and metastatic brain tumors
- To encourage entry of investigators into brain tumor research
- To increase collaboration between basic researchers and clinicians
- To facilitate the translation of laboratory discoveries to Phase I/II clinical trials

All grants should have a strong scientific basis for development into external and NIH-funded programs following the conclusion of funding.

Eligibility for Funding

All UC faculty with 80% or greater FTE, including those based at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, are eligible to apply for funding. For investigators who may be new to BTC research areas, there will be reduced expectations for preliminary data in the applications.

Grant awardees will be expected to participate in the following UC Brain Tumor Center activities in order to maintain grant funding:

- Journal Club (monthly): 6 of 12 meetings per year
- Tumor Board (weekly): minimum of 1 conference per year
- Translational Research Committee (quarterly): 2 of 4 meetings per year
- Brain Tumor Center fundraising events: minimum of 1 event per year

Operation of the Pilot Grant Program

The **Molecular Therapeutics Pilot Grant Program** offers one-year grants of \$50,000 for reimbursement of approved research project expenditures as costs are incurred. Multi-PI and internal cross-institutional (UC/CCHMC/VA) applications are welcome and encouraged. Please note that faculty salary support is not permitted. External contracts are permitted but limited to no more than \$5,000 per grant. Further budget details are provided below.

All awardees are expected to credit the UC BTC in the Affiliation and Acknowledgement sections of publications. Please use the following affiliation:

“Brain Tumor Center at UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute, Cincinnati, OH.”

Application

The application consists of a cover page, abstract page, 5 page narrative, biosketch, and budget with justification. Collaborators and other significant contributors should include a Letter of Support and their biosketch. Applicants are encouraged to work well ahead of time to arrange budget and collaborator documents. Further details describing the application body and a timeline for submission are provided below.

Review

Applications will be reviewed by a panel including research and clinical leaders at the UC College of Medicine, together with the 2016 BTC Visiting Professor. Scored criteria for written proposals are Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach, and Progress Report (continuing research projects only). Additional criteria will include: likelihood of leveraging the pilot grant into NIH funding, translational potential and robust researcher-clinician collaboration.

After review of written proposals, highly ranked applications will be invited for oral presentation and final scoring by the review panel. A timeline is provided below for each step of the submission and review process.

Timeline for the MTP Grant Program:

Request for Applications:	July 5, 2016
Written Proposals due:	September 5, 2016
Invitation for oral presentation	September 30, 2016
Oral presentation:	October 12, 2016
Award notification:	November 4, 2016
Funding begins:	December 1, 2016

Conflicts of interest

In order to maintain review integrity, reviewers will be asked to recuse themselves from the review of applications in which there is a possible conflict of interest (COI). Examples of COI are co-publications or co-investigator grants within the previous 3 years.

Progress Reports

All awardees will be expected to provide a detailed progress report eleven months after the start of funding. Prompt completion of the progress report is critical to sustain support for the pilot program. After completion of the Progress Report, please continue to report successful grants and papers that have benefitted from MTP grant support.

Instructions for Submission of a Full Proposal

Full proposals will be submitted as single PDF files to Cathy Chien, Business Manager, UC Brain Tumor Center (Cathy.Chien@UCHealth.com), by September 5, 2016 at 11:59 pm EST.

Applications should be a maximum of five single-spaced pages (excluding references) in Arial 11 font. The application should include the following:

- Specific Aims
- Background
- Preliminary Data
- Experimental Design

For investigators moving into new areas of research, the lack of preliminary data will not preclude funding. The investigator must demonstrate how their research can be applied to the problem of primary or metastatic brain tumors. The proposal should address the potential for future NIH and external funding. Supporting documents must include: itemized budget, budget justification, other support, and newly formatted NIH bio-sketch.

Budget

Pilot grants will fund expenses directly related to research efforts but not faculty salary support, computers, travel, publication costs or indirect costs. External contracts are permitted but limited to no more than \$5,000 per grant. Please provide an NIH-style budget justification with the budget. Questions regarding allowable expenses should be directed to Cathy Chien, Business Manager, UC Brain Tumor Center (Cathy.Chien@UCHealth.com).

Contact Information

For any questions regarding the application process, please contact:

Cathy Chien
UC Brain Tumor Center
UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute
Ph: 513-584-8642
Cathy.Chien@UCHealth.com

CHECKLIST FOR THE UC BTC MTP GRANT APPLICATION

The following items must be submitted for an application to be considered complete and eligible for review:

Title Page (see below)

Abstract (see below)

Project Narrative:

The Narrative is limited to a maximum of five typewritten pages of discussion, using Arial 11 font (NIH guidelines). Suggested sections are Specific Aims, Introduction, Preliminary Data, Experimental Approach. All details and graphics must be included in the body of the application and no appendices will be accepted other than a bibliography and appropriate letters of support.

Budget and Justification:

The budget must be itemized and a detailed budget justification must be included. Projects are limited to a maximum of \$50,000 for one year.

Biographical sketch of the applicant(s) using the current PHS-398 format. Include active and pending sources of research support (PHS-398) format.

Letters of support and biosketches from collaborators.

___ Please submit a single PDF file containing all documents via email to:

Cathy Chien
UC Brain Tumor Center
UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute
513-584-8642
Fax: (513) 558-8645

Cathy.Chien@UCHealth.com

TITLE PAGE

Project Title:

Applicant Name: (last, first, middle)

Position Title:

Mailing Address:

Department:

Telephone / Fax Number:

Email Address:

Performance Sites: (Organization & Address)

Human Subjects: Yes ___ No ___

Animals: Yes ___ No ___

Total Budget Requested:

APPROVAL:

Department Chair (signature and date)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

Applicant (signature and date)

Applicant Name:

Title of Project:

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED PROJECT
(Do not exceed this space)