

**University of Cincinnati  
Gardner Neuroscience Institute (UCGNI)**

**Brain Tumor Center**

**Molecular Therapeutics Program Announcement  
2018**

**Announcement and instructions for Grants and Programs to support research in primary and metastatic tumors of the brain.**

Pilot grants  
Boost grants  
Clinical Trial grants  
Tumor Modeling Program

The UCGNI Brain Tumor Center announces a comprehensive research support program to advance the prevention, diagnosis, and/or treatment of brain tumors. Through the Molecular Therapeutics Program (MTP), the BTC offers support 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.

### **UCGNI BTC Strategic Goals**

- Funding preliminary research that leads to subsequent NIH awards.
- Supporting translational studies that bring research as close as possible to direct, patient-level intervention.
- Enhancing research that fosters and involves collaboration between basic / translational investigators and clinicians.

### **Research Support Mechanisms**

Beginning in July 2018, the MTP will offer direct grant support through the following mechanisms:

- **Pilot grants.** Supporting *new* research projects that require data to drive new grant applications in brain tumor research. \$50,000 maximum budget.
- **Boost grants.** This mechanism supports R01-level grant applications that have received supportive critiques but were not funded in an initial round of review. Boost grants will support research to address critiques. \$25,000 max. budget.
- **Clinical trials.** UC/CCHMC investigator initiated clinical trials will be supported. \$50,000 maximum budget.
- **Tumor Modeling Program.** Supporting intracranial injections of in vivo model systems to investigate brain tumor mechanisms. BTC Investigators are eligible.

## **Eligibility**

All UC, CCHMC, and VA faculty with 80% or greater FTE are eligible for support. For investigators who may be new to BTC research areas, there will be reduced expectations for preliminary data in the applications.

Investigators must commit to participating in the following UC Brain Tumor Center activities in order to maintain grant funding:

- BTC Research meetings (monthly): 6 of 12 meetings per year
- Brain Tumor Center fundraising events: minimum of 1 event per year.
- Submission of timely Progress Reports upon request from the Brain Tumor Center.
- 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 procedures and deadlines**

*Pilot grants.* Please send a letter of intent (LOI) to the BTC by October 1, 2018. All applicants may proceed to develop full applications which are due on October 31, 2018. Further information on pilot grant applications is detailed below.

*Boost grants.* There is no deadline for these applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis until annual funds have been distributed. Applications will consist of:

- Cover and Abstract Forms (below)
- Original grant aims page
- Full reviews
- Response to review (1 page)
- NIH biosketch
- Budget and justification.

*Clinical trials.* There is no deadline for these applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis until all annual funds have been distributed. Funding will be contingent upon successful completion of IRB approval. Application materials:

- Cover and Abstract Forms (below)
- Completed IRB application
- One page summary of the trial
- NIH biosketch
- Budget and justification.

*Tumor Modeling Program.* There is no deadline for this application. Prior to experiments, the applicant should confirm commitments outlined in the Eligibility section above, in an email to the UCGNI BTC at the address listed for Application Submission.

## **Application submission**

Applications for all mechanisms may be submitted in a single PDF to Ms. Acacia Uible, Administrative Assistant for UCGNI, at [Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com](mailto:Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com). Please indicate the grant mechanism in the subject line and/or email text.

## **Review**

Grant applications will be reviewed by a panel including research and clinical leaders at the UC College of Medicine. In order to maintain review integrity, reviewers will be asked to recuse themselves when there is a possible conflict of interest (COI), such as from co-publications or co-investigator grants within the previous 3 years. Reviewers will submit written recommendations to the Director of the BTC, who will make a final decision on funding taking into account reviews as well as programmatic priorities.

The general review criteria will be significance, investigator, innovation, and approach. This program has three specific strategic priorities:

- (1) funding preliminary research that leads to subsequent NIH funding,
- (2) translational studies that bring research as close as possible to direct, patient-level intervention, and
- (3) funding research that fosters and involves collaboration between basic / translational investigators and clinicians.

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.

Applicants are encouraged to consider these three strategic priorities when preparing applications and should address in their application the degree to which the proposed research meets one or more of these priorities.

## **Budgets**

- All expenses must be directly related to the conduct of the proposed research.
- Investigator support is not permitted on research grants. Research staff support is permitted.
- External contracts may amount to no more than 10% of the budget.
- Travel expenses are not permitted.
- Budgets should provide a breakdown of expenses into categories, and include a brief expense justification for each category following NIH guidelines.
- If for any reason, an investigator cannot complete the term of the study at the University of Cincinnati or Cincinnati Children's, the fund balance must immediately be returned to the UCGNI Brain Tumor Center.
- Questions regarding allowable expenses should be directed to Acacia Uible, Administrative Assistant for UCGNI at [Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com](mailto:Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com).

All awardees are expected to credit the UCGNI BTC in the Affiliation and Acknowledgement sections of publications. Please use the following affiliation: "Brain Tumor Center at UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute, Cincinnati, OH."

### **Pilot Proposals – Specific Instructions.**

- 1) These instructions *do not apply* to Boost and Clinical Trial applications.
- 2) Submit one-page letter of intent, describing the Title, Aims, and Key Personnel of the grant (as initially conceived) by October 1<sup>st</sup> to Ms. Acacia Uible, Administrative Assistant for UCGNI ([Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com](mailto:Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com)). The LOI is to allow the UCGNI BTC to plan for application review only – the LOI itself will not be reviewed.
- 3) Full length pilot proposals will be submitted as single PDF files to Ms. Acacia Uible, Administrative Assistant for UCGNI ([Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com](mailto:Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com)), by Friday, October 31, 2018 at 12:00 noon EST.

The **Research Plan** (Specific Aims, Preliminary Data, and Experimental Design) should be a maximum of five single-spaced pages (excluding references) in Arial 11 font and following NIH formatting instructions. The application should include the following sections in order.

- Cover page (provided below).
- Abstract with description of how the proposed research meets one or more of the BTC funding strategic objectives.
- Specific Aims page. Use NIH formatting guidelines.
- Preliminary Data. Use NIH formatting guidelines.
- Experimental Design. Use NIH formatting guidelines.
- Citations
- Itemized Budget
- Budget Justification
- PI Biosketch including Other Support
- Summary of PI's past UCGNI BTC grant support including title, dates, and highlight achievements.
- Letters of Support.
- Biosketches of additional Key Personnel.
- No appendices will be accepted except as specifically approved in advance.

} Note: The Aims, Data, and Design sections must be no more than 5 pages in length using NIH formatting guidelines.

All application materials should be submitted as a single PDF.

### **Contact Information**

For any questions regarding the application process, please contact:

Acacia Uible, Brain Tumor Center  
UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute  
Ph: 513-584-8642  
[Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com](mailto:Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com).

## **CHECKLIST FOR THE UC BTC MTP PILOT GRANT APPLICATION**

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

- Cover page (provided below).
- Abstract with description of how the proposed research meets one or more of the BTC funding strategic objectives (provided below).
- Specific Aims page. Use NIH formatting guidelines.
- Preliminary Data. Use NIH formatting guidelines.
- Experimental Design. Use NIH formatting guidelines
- Citations
- Itemized Budget
- Budget Justification
- PI Biosketch including Other Support
- Summary of PI's past UCGNI BTC grant support including title, dates, and highlight achievements.
- Letters of Support.
- Biosketches of additional Key Personnel.

Note: The Aims, Data, and Design sections must be no more than 5 pages in length using NIH formatting guidelines.

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

Ms. Acacia Uible  
UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute  
513-584-8642  
Fax: (513) 558-8646

[Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com](mailto:Acacia.Uible@UCHealth.com).

**TITLE PAGE**

Project Title:

---

Grant Mechanism: (Pilot, Boost, Clinical Trial)

---

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:

APPLICANT SIGNATURE  
Applicant (signature and date)

**ABSTRACT**

Applicant Name:

---

Title of Project:

---

---

**ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED PROJECT**  
*(Do not exceed this space)*

**ALIGNMENT WITH UCGNI BTC STRATEGIC GOALS**  
*(See page 1 for details of the UCGNI BTC Strategic Goals)*