

University of Puerto Rico/MD Anderson Cancer Center: Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research

Call for Proposals

BACKGROUND

The Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research between the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MD Anderson) is pleased to announce a call for research proposals that will be included in the upcoming renewal of the Partnership grant. The proposal's primary focus will be the **Infection-Driven Malignancies for Advancing Careers and Translational Sciences (IMPACT) Program**, which seeks to address some of the most profound cancer health disparities in Hispanic underserved communities and socio-economically disadvantaged populations in Puerto Rico, Texas, and elsewhere. Research projects focused on other cancer health disparities will also be considered. The selected research proposals will be included in the renewal proposal of the UPR/MD Anderson Partnership grant and will undergo review at the National Cancer Institute.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Faculty are invited to submit proposals employing novel approaches in developing multidisciplinary collaborative research projects focused on cancer health disparities that arise from infection-driven malignancies and/or other causes.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT

If the UPR/MD Anderson Partnership grant is funded, funding will be available for one full project up to \$250,000 per year and two pilot projects up to \$120,000 per year; funding is split between both institutions for a three-year study period.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- All projects must have a minimum of two co-leaders: one from UPR and one from MD Anderson.
- Co-leaders must be at the level of assistant professors or above; one co-leader should have seniority.
- Projects should be relevant to the IMPACT and/or cancer health disparities and develop research capacity at UPR.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES AND DUE DATES

- **Letter of Intent Due – Wednesday, January 13, 2023 (letters may be sent earlier)**
 - A one-page letter of intent is required to submit a proposal. Letters should list the names and faculty appointments of the co-leaders, describe the overall goal and importance of the research to be proposed, and situate the project within the research priorities of the Partnership.
- **Proposal Due – Wednesday, February 17, 2023 (Full Compliance for submission to NCI is not required at this stage)**
 - All proposals must include:
 - Cover letter
 - NIH Biosketches for all key personnel
 - NIH Research Plan (6 pages max with timeline) – Please also include information on human subjects, vertebrate animals, and any biohazards (not included in the page limit)
 - Detailed budgets and budget justifications for three years of funding (no equipment purchases)
 - Career Development and Mentorship Plan (2 pages max) for any participating graduate students, postdocs, and/or instructors.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Partnership's internal advisory committee will review all proposals using standard NIH criteria.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Selection Notification for inclusion in the U54 Partnership renewal: May 1, 2023
- Renewal U54 Partnership grant submission: January 2024
- If the grant is funded, the anticipated start date: September 1, 2024

CONTACTS

For scientific questions, please contact the PIs, Drs. Elizabeth Travis (etravis@mdanderson.org) and Brad Weiner (brad.weiner@upr.edu). For all other questions, please contact the Administrative Core directors, Sherri De Jesús (sdejesus@mdanderson.org) and Evelyn Rivera (evelyn.rivera14@upr.edu).

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