MCC / UNITE Pilot Application
Release Date: 08/16/2023
Application Deadline: 10/18/2023
Project Duration: 12 months

Markey Cancer Center and the UNITE Research Priority Area are excited to continue providing research support through a funding opportunity for one $50,000 pilot project during a 12-month period (expected start date: **02/01/2024**).

A critical component of the UNITE Research Priority Area (RPA) mission is to support research focused on social disparities, health equity, and justice that will result in impactful scholarly outputs and extramural funding for sustainability.

Projects proposed in response to this funding announcement should seek to understand and prevent cancer, detect cancer early, and/or manage cancer treatment more accurately and effectively among underrepresented minority populations.

Background
Cancer cases continue to increase in number for individuals in the Commonwealth and throughout the country. The number of cancer-related deaths per year in the United States is anticipated to grow to 904 thousand by 2040.[1] The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention ranked Kentucky number one nationally in cancer deaths, with an age-adjusted rate of 186.0 for all cancer sites in 2020.[2] Among environmental and social factors, access to care plays an important role in lowering cancer incidence and mortality rates.[3] Given the increased risk of death from cancer and known challenges associated with willingness and accessibility of preventative screenings, this is a critical issue within the Commonwealth.

Eligibility
Projects **must** involve investigators from at least two of MCC's three Research Programs, and must use at least one MCC Shared Resource Facility. All proposals **must** include documentation (e.g., letters of support) of adequate input from the appropriate Shared Resource Facility to support their studies. Multi-PI awards are not allowed. PIs must be MCC Research or Associate members (UK faculty) in one of the MCC's three research programs.

Eligibility is limited to full-time faculty (all title series including regular, research, clinical and special) at the University of Kentucky who are members of the UNITE Research Priority Area. If you are interested in applying and are not a member of the UNITE RPA, please send an inquiry to unite-rpa@uky.edu.

Applications
Full applications will be due to J. Bybee (jennifer.bybee@uky.edu) by (**10/18/2023**), and must include the following components, submitted as one combined PDF:
- Cover page form, listing contact information for PI, co-investigators, and collaborators (https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2023-08/MCC-UNITE%20Pilot%20Cover%20Page%202023.pdf)
- A 300 word abstract of the proposed research, including a two- or three-sentence statement regarding translational and clinical/population relevance, inter-programmatic collaborations, and Shared Resource Facility usage.
- An NIH-style biosketch for each investigator involved in the project, consistent with the current required biosketch format. The personal statement should accurately reflect the role of the investigator on the proposed project.

- A detailed, justified budget for one year (twelve months) of proposed work.
    - Salary support for the PI's effort as well as effort of co-investigators and staff working on the project should be included on the project budget. Voluntary cost share at the University of Kentucky may only be considered in exceptional circumstances. If cost share for effort on a CCSG pilot project is requested, appropriate approvals from the departmental level must be obtained and documented at the time of application. Cost share approvals must also be obtained from the appropriate college Associate Dean(s) for Research and the Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration before an account can be established and will be requested during the account set up process. Approvals at those levels may not be granted even if the department chair has approved. It is strongly encouraged that applicants consult MCC staff or administration during the development of their applications including budget-related components. One week prior to the application deadline, please send budgets to Rachel Grace LeComte at Rachel.lecomte@uky.edu for compliance review. Performing this review with RCO staff will help identify any budgetary issues that would prevent your project from starting in a timely manner, should it be selected for funding. MCC administrative staff will conduct a review of each project recommended for funding and work with principal investigators to resolve any issues before the project's funding can begin.
- A six-page proposal (page limit excludes references), including:
    - Specific Aims (one page)
    - Significance and Innovation (one page)
    - Experimental Design (three pages)
    - Collaboration across Research Program(s) and utilization of SRF(s) (one page)

Projects utilizing human subjects must include the PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form, including all applicable attachments. The form is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

Application Deadlines and Key Dates
10/18/2023: Applications due
Week of 12/04/2023: Selected Applicants notified
Project period: Twelve months from project start date (project start date dependent on IRB approval and disbursement of funds but must be within one month of award notification date). **Projects are expected to have the appropriate IRB/IACUC approvals in place before funding will begin.**

Please address specific application questions to Jennifer Bybee (Jennifer.bybee@uky.edu).

Review Criteria
Full applications will be reviewed by the MCC's Research Review committee with input from the UNITE RPA selection committee and possible external reviewers. Applications recommended for funding will be approved by the MCC Director's Council and the UNITE RPA Lead. Review criteria will include:

- **Significance:** (i.e., Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier to progress in the field?)

- **Innovation:** (i.e., Does the proposal utilize novel and applicable theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation or apply existing concepts to new populations or problems?)
- **Approach:** (i.e., Are the intended research activities well-described and likely to be feasible? Does the strategy involve leveraging existing connections and collaborations? Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are study limitations acknowledged and addressed?)
- **Investigator(s):** (i.e., Does the PI have the appropriate experience and training, evidence of productivity and/or potential to lead the project? Does the PI and research team have the required expertise and experience to conduct the proposed research study?)

Emphasis during the review of applications will be placed on the project's potential to:
- produce clinical/population translation-focused outcomes, including NIH awards that include a clinical/population study
- result in a multi-component or multi-investigator NIH award (i.e., an MPI, PPG- or SPORE-style grant)
- promote or strengthen inter- and intra-programmatic collaborations.

Reporting Requirements
During the formative phase of the project, awardees will be expected to present the research funded through this mechanism to the MCC Community Advisory Board and at UNITE-sponsored events. All publications, presentations, and other creative activities resulting from this award must include the following acknowledgement: "Funding was provided, in part, by the UNITE Research Priority Area at the University of Kentucky." A one-page final report will be due at project completion detailing study enrollment, results, dissemination, and plans for future funding. All reporting requirements will be outlined in award notifications.

References
1. International Agency for Research on Cancer. "Estimated Number of Deaths from 2020 to 2040, Both Sexes, Age [0-85+]." Cancer Tomorrow, 2020, gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/dataviz/isotype?populations=840&single_unit=100000&types=1
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). United States and Puerto Rico Cancer Statistics, 1999-2017 Mortality Request. United States Department of Health and Human Services. http://wonder.cdc.gov/CancerMort-v2017.html.
3. National Cancer Institute. Research Areas: Cancer Health Disparities. Published 2015. Accessed August 15, 2023. https://www.cancer.gov/research/areas/disparities

MARKEY CANCER CENTER
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PILOT GRANT COVER PAGE

Section A: CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Principal Investigator

Name:_____

Title: _____

College: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

UNITE RPA Member: Yes   No

Section B: OTHER PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S), CO-INVESTIGATOR(S), OR COLLABORATOR(S)

Name: _____

Role on Project: _____

College: _____

Name: _____

Role on Project: _____

College: _____

Name: _____

Role on Project: _____

College: _____

Name: _____

Role on Project: _____

College: _____

MARKEY CANCER CENTER
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PILOT GRANT COVER PAGE

Section C: DEPARTMENT BUSINESS MANAGER
(Individual specific to PI's college or academic unit)

Name: _____

College: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Section D: TITLE OF PILOT PROJECT
Pilot Project Title:

Section E: BUDGET
Proposed Dates:

   Start Date: _____

   End Date: _____

   Amount Requested: _____

Section F: RESEARCH AREA
Which UK research priority area does your proposal address (select all that apply):

   Substance Use

   Cancer

   Cardiovascular Disease

   Diabetes and Obesity

   Cerebrovascular/neuroscience

   Diversity and Inclusion

   Energy

   Other, please specify

Section G: MARKEY CANCER CENTER

➢ **Are you a Markey Cancer Center member?**

  Yes No

➢ **Which Markey Cancer Center program are you in?**

  Cancer Prevention and Control (CP) Program

  Molecular and Cellular Oncology (MCO) Program

  Translational Oncology (TO) Program

Section H: PRIOR REVIEW

➢ **Has this project been previously submitted for internal grant funding?**

  Yes No

  If Yes, please provide:

  - Date Submitted: _____
  - Grant Mechanism (e.g., IRC, VPR pilot funding): _____
  - Score & Summary of Feedback:

    _____

➢ **Has this project been previously submitted for external grant funding?**

  Yes No

  If Yes, please provide:

  - Date Submitted: _____
  - Grant Mechanism/Funding Agency (e.g., R03, NIDA): _____
  - Score & Summary of Feedback:

    _____

Section I: REVIEW/APPROVAL REQUIRED BY UNIVERSITY POLICY & FEDERAL LAW

➢ **Does this project involve the use of human subjects?**

  Yes No

  If Yes, the project MUST be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to funding start. Please provide:

  - IRB Protocol Number: _____
  - Date Approved: _____
  - If not approved yet, IRB date submitted _____