SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Research Pilot Grants Funding Opportunity
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC)
Administrative Core and Development Funds
Request for Proposals
March 2020

The Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC), in partnership with the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and the Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons, is seeking applications for research projects focused on SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). These resources have been developed to respond to the critical need for funding to initiate research projects to address the COVID-19 pandemic. An expectation is that the pilot grants will catalyze new grant applications to the NIH and/or other funding agencies in response to SARS-CoV-2 research requests in the coming months. Accordingly, our internal application is rapid with a **deadline: April 17, 2020**

HICCC expects to fund 3-4 critically important pilot projects through this opportunity to better understand the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and clinical management of COVID-19. The award will provide funding at the level of $50,000 for one year. Projects do not have to be directly related to cancer. We encourage that funds be used to support project specific experiments, a smaller portion of the funds may be used towards post-doctorate researcher, graduate student, and technician salary. Funding may not be used towards PI salary.

HICCC will fund research projects that are likely to have an immediate/short term impact. These projects may have already begun or be about to begin. We will consider projects that are dry-bench/in silico and/or experimental laboratory research projects focused on SARS-CoV-2 research. We will also consider projects in labs that are currently not conducting active research because COVID-19 restrictions but will reopen. Projects utilizing the **COVID-19 Biobank**, a centralized resource to collect, process, store, and disseminate biological specimens, biomarkers, and clinical and related data for Columbia University investigators and beyond are encouraged to apply.

We anticipate that awards will be made by May 1, 2020. However, start dates for funding may be flexible on a project-by-project basis and will be as expedient as possible.

**HICCC will consider project across the research spectrum including:**

- Clinical trials of novel or repurposed drugs (hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir, anti-IL6 receptor antibodies, Leflunomide, etc.)
- Characterization of the immune response to SARS-CoV-2
- Natural history of SARS-CoV-2 infection, including genomic data collection and generation of aggregated data sets and analysis
- Natural history of SARS-CoV-2 in cancer patients (both those under active treatment and not) and the impact of the pandemic on clinical trial research and accrual
- Better methods of screening, detection, and prevention, including rapid screening
- Novel approaches for community monitoring and care delivery (e.g., surveillance apps, telehealth, etc.) for cancer patients during this period
- Other ideas

**Eligibility:** Applicants must have:
• An PhD, MD, or equivalent degree(s)
• Assistant Professor level or higher at the time of application submission
• Postdoctoral trainees, Associate Research Scientists, and Lecturers are not eligible.

Proposal format: Applicants must provide:

• Research Summary (200 words)
• Research Proposal – 2 page maximum which should include:
  o Specific Aims
  o Background/Significance
  o Research Strategy
• Budget and Budget Justification up to 1 page (not included in page limit)
• NIH formatted biosketch for all key personnel (not included in page limit)

To be considered, please apply here by the deadline April 17, 2020.

Review Process: HICCC Senior Leadership will select awards to be funded through an internal review committee. We will select reviewers who have not applied for this pilot award. Projects will be evaluated in terms of scientific merit, investigators, and approach.

Anonymized critiques will be shared with applicants. We look forward to receiving your proposals.

For any questions about the application process, scientific content, and eligibility, please contact: Dr. Emer Smyth es3551@cumc.columbia.edu or Dr. Tanisha Jackson tj2325@cumc.columbia.edu.