P30 Cancer Center Support Grant Administrative Supplements to support NCI Approved Clinical Trial Proposals from NCI-designated Cancer Centers not affiliated with the NCI Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN) for Investigator-Initiated Trials Utilizing CTEP IND agents in the ETCTN

Key Dates

Release Date: March 2, 2016
Request Receipt Date: n/a
Earliest Anticipated Start Date for Awards: May 1, 2016

Purpose

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) announces the opportunity for supplemental funding to promote collaborations between NCI-designated cancer centers (NCI-CCs) and CTEP's Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN). The short term goal of this Early Drug Development Opportunity (EDDO) program is create the opportunity for any member of an NCI-CC that currently is not affiliated with the ETCTN UM1 cooperative agreement program to lead innovative early phase studies of anti-cancer agents held under CTEP's IND. The long-term goal is to test the best therapeutic ideas generated by the members of NCI-CCs to improve the outcome of cancer therapy.

To become eligible for funding consideration, an NCI-CC must submit a study proposal (Letter of Intent, LOI) to CTEP. Funding over a 2-year period is contingent upon CTEP approval of the LOI. These administrative supplements are designed to provide funds that will allow the investigator to enroll patients on the approved study at the investigator's NCI-CC. If appropriate, CTEP may also open the study across the entire ETCTN and use its centralized clinical trial infrastructure for management of the study across the Network.

Background

The NCI's Early Therapeutics Development Program sponsored by the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) in the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis (DCTD) has contributed to the clinical development of many anticancer agents. This Program has the unique ability to quickly take advantage of new scientific opportunities to promote therapeutic innovations. It melds partnerships with pharmaceutical companies developing novel agents with specialized clinical trial expertise found in academic medical centers to leverage development of a particular agent or novel agent combinations. NCI accepts new agents into its portfolio through the NCI's Experimental Therapeutics (NExT) program, and develops Collaborative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) with pharmaceutical companies and academic investigators. Through its Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN), NCI creates a drug development plan (DDP) that includes phase 1 and phase 2 studies which are an essential part of the CTEP drug development process. The phase 2 program investigators provide access to disease-oriented clinics in clinical sites, and expertise in conducting phase 2 studies. These studies are designed to provide a sufficiently unequivocal signal of clinical benefit to justify definitive large multi-institutional phase 3 trials designed to demonstrate improved outcomes and change the standards of practice.

The current ETCTN consists of 12 UM1 grantee Lead Academic Organizations and their affiliates committed to conducting studies of NCI-IND agents with a phase 1 emphasis. These UM1 grantees have recently incorporated an ETCTN Phase 2 Program that had consisted of 7 contract holders at major academic medical centers and their affiliates. The ETCTN provides the major clinical trials infrastructure and laboratory support to conduct complex early phase trials in its partnerships with industry. The ETCTN phase 1 and phase 2 programs have mechanisms to support sites for investigator effort and patient accrual to ETCTN studies.

Administrative Supplements

Currently, approximately half of NCI-CC's are included in the ETCTN, either by holding a UM1 grant or as an affiliate of a UM1 grantee. ***The purpose of this solicitation is to give investigators at other NCI-CCs the same opportunity to submit proposals for innovative clinical studies to CTEP and, if approved, the necessary ETCTN resources to be able to conduct their study***. These resources include access to NCI-IND agents for the clinical trial, access to ETCTN clinical trial sites for patient accrual, and complete centralized clinical trial support of the ETCTN, including Central Institutional Review Board, centralized patient registration, centralized data collection and data management, and CTEP regulatory support. In addition, funds will be awarded to offset trial expenses at the home NCI-CC.

In addition these supplements may also be awarded to investigators with CTEP-approved protocols or Letters of Intent (LOI) who reside at NCI-designated cancer centers formerly affiliated with the ETCTN N01 phase 2 contract program that are no longer affiliated with the ETCTN. These awards will allow previously-approved high-priority trials to complete accrual within the ETCTN.

Eligible Institutions

Investigators who are members of clinical and comprehensive NCI-designated Cancer Centers ***that are not currently affiliated with an ETCTN UM1 grant*** are eligible to apply.

Number of Applications

Only one application per NCI-CC is allowed per fiscal year. Each application must include a cover letter from the NCI-CC Director, with concurrence from the Authorized Organization Official (AOR), stating that the submitted LOI is the NCI-CC LOI submission for the year. However, if an LOI from an NCI-CC is approved through this program, then that NCI-CC may submit a second LOI during the fiscal year.

LOI Application Instructions

Applications will be made as a Letter of Intent available at http://ctep.cancer.gov/protocolDevelopment/docs/loi_form.docx.

Applications should be submitted to the CTEP Protocol Information Office (PIO) as directed on the LOI form. A copy of the submission should be sent to the NCI-CC Program Office.

LOI's must involve the development of NCI IND agents. A list of NCI IND agents can be found at: http://ctep.cancer.gov/protocolDevelopment/agents_drugs.htm

LOI's must be approved by the local NCI-CC Protocol Review and Monitoring System (PRMS) before submission to CTEP to help ensure quality submissions.

LOI's submitted to PIO under this initiative must include a cover letter from the NCI-CC Director that states:

- That the LOI is submitted through the ETCTN-P30 supplement program
- P30 grant number
- An attestation that the LOI is the single LOI submission from the NCI-CC for the fiscal year
- Documentation of LOI approval by the local PRMS

Applications will undergo the standard CTEP LOI evaluation process, culminating in a consensus review by the CTEP Protocol Review Committee (PRC).

The acceptance rate for LOIs has historically been approximately 30%. The following considerations should guide LOI development:

- LOI's must be original and justified by robust preclinical data, including xenograft studies using relevant tumor models
- Must be feasible in regard to accrual goals
- Must have a sound statistical design and a designated study statistician
- Must not be duplicative of other planned or ongoing studies - check cancer.gov and clinicaltrials.gov or contact CTEP
- Should conform to NCI Investigational Drug Steering Committee study design criteria for phase 1, phase 2 and biomarker incorporation
- Should include relevant biomarkers that demonstrate target engagement and demonstration of mechanism of action in the clinical setting

Assays for proposed biomarkers that will be integral or integrated into study objectives must be validated. Data demonstrating the fitness-for-purpose of these biomarker assays must be submitted to CTEP and approved by the Biomarker Review Committee before LOI approval. The PI and NCI-CC Director must agree to comply with NIH and NCI human subjects research polices and other relevant policies such as the NCI Genomic Data Sharing Policy. Please refer to the CTEP Investigator Handbook for more information.

Terms and Conditions of Funding and Allowable Costs

The budget should justify all the direct and indirect costs. A maximum of $62,500 in total costs per 2 years will be available for each supplement. Supplements are for two years only. We anticipate up to 4 awards will be made per year (4 new awards made per year). Allowable costs include funding for the Principal Investigator of the study (maximum of 20% effort), who must be a member of the NCI-CC, funding for a study statistician, and funding will also be provided to support patient accrual to the study at the NCI-CC. The PI will be expected to conform to all ETCTN processes and procedures, including the use of the Central IRB, the OPEN registration system, Medidata Rave for data management, and CTEP-AERS for adverse event reporting.

Supplement Award Application Procedures

If an LOI is approved by CTEP, the PI will be invited to formally apply for a P30 administrative supplement.

1. **Cover Letter**
   A cover letter should accompany each application and include the following:
   a. Request for an administrative supplement to support the project
   b. Title of the supplement
   c. P30 grant number
   d. Approval of the local PRMS committee
   e. NCI notice of LOI approval
   f. Contact information for the Cancer Center Director and the Project Leader
   g. Signatures of the Cancer Center Director and the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)

2. **Application**
   a. Standard PHS 398 (pgs 1-5)
      i. Item 2: check yes and provide the title indicated in the cover letter, 1.b.
      ii. Item 7A-8B, denote the direct and total costs for the project. Total costs may not exceed $62,500.
      iii. The AOR must sign the face page.
      iv. Include a detailed budget description.
      v. Provide NIH biographical sketches for the P30 principal investigator.

3. **Summary of the Project**
   The applicant should attach the approved LOI.

4. **Justification of Staff**
   Attach CV of Principal Investigator of the LOI. Note that in order to qualify for a supplement, the name of the Principal Investigator must be proposed at the time of submission.

Application Submission

Applications may be submitted as a signed, scanned PDF to nga.nguyen2@nih.gov. Awards will be made after LOIs receive final approved, which requires company commitment of drug supply for the study, and as funds are available.

Review Criteria

Since the review criteria are encompassed at the LOI stage, there will not be a secondary review process. Approved LOI's eligible for support utilizing these administrative supplements will be selected by NCI ETCTN program staff.

Awards

Awards will be based on responsiveness to the goals of this announcement and the availability of funds. Awards may be withheld if the PI subsequently does not meet CTEP Operational Efficiency Working Group (OEWG) timelines.

Reporting Requirements/Deliverables

As part of the annual progress report for the parent NCI Cancer Center Grant, include information on what has been accomplished via the administrative supplement during the funding period. A copy of the annual progress report for the administrative supplement should be sent to Dr. Jeffrey Moscow via email at jeffrey.moscow@nih.gov.

Questions

Please contact Dr. Jeffrey Moscow (Telephone: 240-276-6565 Email: jeffrey.moscow@nih.gov) for questions related to the ETCTN or the NCI Program Director for your P30 CCSG award (telephone 240-276-5600).