Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

H Foundation
Pilot Project Awards
Recombinant Protein Production Core (rPPC)

Release Date: June 5, 2013

Application Due Date: July 7, 2013

Funding: $5,000 per project; potential for additional $5,000 for joint project with 2nd CLP Core (ChemCore, HTA, CAMI, PCE, QBIC, or DTC)

Through the generous support of the *H Foundation,* **members of the *Basic Sciences Research Division*** of the *Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University* can apply for a pilot project award **to advance basic and translational research projects with cancer relevance**. The pilot awards will provide up to $5,000 directly to the **Recombinant Protein Production Core (rPPC),** or $5,000 on behalf of an investigator directly to **rPPC** for use of the core facility services. It is expected that these awards will enable investigators to obtain preliminary results that can be used to support research grant applications to external funding agencies for more extensive projects.

Award Objectives and Scope
The overall purpose of this award is to fund the use of the rPPC core facility to carry out pilot recombinant protein production projects with basic or translational research objectives with cancer relevance. The proposals **must represent new and innovative research, not extensions of currently funded projects**, for which pilot funding is needed to generate preliminary data for longer-term programs. It is envisioned that promising pilot projects will be developed into R01, R03, or R21 grants.

rPPC services
The Recombinant Protein Production Core (rPPC) generates high-quality recombinant proteins in large quantities for researchers within the Northwestern Community. As a centralized protein production core facility, rPPC facilitates the expression of proteins for a broad spectrum of research activities ranging from structure/function studies to producing therapeutic candidates, such as monoclonal and recombinant antibodies for *in vitro* and *in vivo* pre-clinical studies.
On September 1, 2012 rPPC started to serve as a central core for Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) Lever Grant providing high quality, formatted antigens, and assisting in producing synthetic antibody for experimental use.
Visit http://rppc.mccormick.northwestern.edu to learn more about instrumentation and services.

Examples of potential pilot projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In vitro molecular studies – We can produce the custom protein reagents you need for your assays.
- Custom antibodies – We generate mouse hybridoma and prepare gram-scale quantities of antibodies
- Protein structure elucidation – We have multiple expression hosts (microbial, mammalian, and insect) which allows optimization for high quantity/quality production
- Access to purification equipment – If you have custom methods for synthesizing the protein, our downstream purification can be used.
- Protein affinity reagents for perturbing genetic or signaling pathways (available through the CBC Lever grant)

Application Process

Applications Due July 7, 2013

- Discuss projects and feasibility with the rPPC, contact Izolda Popova at i-popova@northwestern.edu.
- Up to 2-page application (including figures and references) with the following sections: Specific Aims, Research Plan, Expected Outcomes, and Potential Pitfalls
- The application should **clearly state the cancer relevance** of the project
- Describe the innovative aspects of the application, especially regarding the proposed protein or antibody in the context of existing data and publications
- Give a brief description of how the pilot project data will be used to achieve longer-term research funding or continuation of the project
- Include any preliminary data that may validate the protein or antibody of interest, the assay used to evaluate functional activity.
- Include a current NIH-style biosketch (limit 4 pages total) for the PI and any key personnel
- Applicants should not submit a budget. Applicants whose projects are reviewed will be provided a suggested research plan and associated budget prior to final award notification.

Evaluation Process

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Cancer relevance of the target, phenotype, or hit compound(s)
- Overall scientific merit, with particular attention given to the innovative characteristics of the proposal and the unique outcomes that are expected
- Likelihood of successfully achieving the application's aims within the scope of the award
- Prospects for obtaining continued funding of the project

Responsibilities of the Awardees

As a condition of funding, awardees will be expected to submit a one-page progress report two months prior to the end of the project year. Award funding will be expended within one year. Unspent funds will be withdrawn and reallocated to other projects.

Applications should be submitted via NUCATS ASSIST at: https://grants.nubic.northwestern.edu/welcome

Application deadline: July 7, 2013. Funding decisions will be announced in July.

For questions regarding any of the H Foundation Pilot Awards, contact Jenna TerMolen at (847) 467-0965 or email jter@northwestern.edu