

DHART SPORE CAREER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Career Enhancement Program (CEP) is a component of the multi-institutional **D**evelopmental and **H**yperactive **R**as Tumor (DHART) SPORE. This SPORE focuses on improving the diagnosis and management of tumors arising in persons with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) and other inherited "Rasopathy" syndromes through basic, translational, and clinical research. These tumors include plexiform neurofibroma, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST), optic track glioma, juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML), and subsequent malignant neoplasms caused by prior exposure to mutagenic chemotherapy and/or radiation. Research proposals investigating the role of somatic *NF1* mutations in cancers such as glioblastoma multiforme, adenocarcinoma of the lung, melanoma, and myeloid leukemia will also be considered for support through this program. The goals of the CDP are: (1) to attract outstanding young basic scientists and translational/clinical investigators to the field of NF1-associated tumor research; (2) to assist in the career development of these junior faculty; and, (3) to encourage collaborations between investigators that can lead to new ideas and directions in research related to tumors associated with *NF1* mutations while also contributing to career development.

Awards: We anticipate funding two or three CDP projects at \$50,000 - \$75,000 per year. Awards will be for a 12-month period. It is anticipated that most projects will be funded for one year. However, a second year of funding is potentially available through a competitive re-application process for projects demonstrating substantial progress and a high likelihood of long-term success.

Eligibility: Proposals will be accepted from clinical or basic science investigators at any DHART SPORE institution (Indiana University, UCSF, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, UT Southwestern, UAB, UNC, and Johns Hopkins) as well as from other academic institutions. Applicants must have faculty appointments and be scientifically independent by the criterion of eligibility to apply for NIH R01 awards, but cannot currently hold R01 or equivalent funding for NF1-related research. Faculty members with NIH career development awards (K08; K23) are eligible to apply for CDP funds. **Faculty members from under-represented in medicine (URM) groups are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Applications: The application consists of:

- (1) A cover page signed by the Principal Investigator (PI) and her/his department chair.
- (2) A single page containing an abstract of no more than 350 words briefly summarizing the project and a 200 word statement describing relevance of to the goals of the DHART SPORE
- (3) A non-redundant 2 page scientific proposal that includes aims, background, preliminary data (if available), and research plan. All figures and tables must be included within the 2 page proposal and appendices are not permitted. A bibliography listing citations to published work is the only item not included in the 2 page limit.
- (4) The NIH Biographical Sketch of the Principal Investigator (PI) and of any key collaborators
- (5) An itemized budget page and budget justification.

Proposals must use 11 point Arial font style throughout (except for Figure Legends) and 0.5 inch margins. Proposals that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned without review.

Contract and grants approval is not required to apply. A full application packet is provided with this announcement and is also available by contacting Ms. Flora Ignacio at Flora.Ignacio@ucsf.edu. Completed applications should be submitted electronically to Ms. Ignacio at the email address above in a single pdf file. **The submission deadline is Tuesday Sept 17, 2019.**

Application review: All applications will be reviewed by the DHART SPORE Steering Committee and prioritized on the basis of translational potential; scientific quality; qualifications and track record

of the PI; potential for development of the project to a full project or clinical trial; and relevance to goals of the DHART SPORE. The tentative funding start date will be **November 1, 2019**.

Budgetary Guidelines: Funds may be used for to support the salary of the PI (up to 10% of the NIH cap); other research personnel, supplies, or small equipment. Funds cannot be used to purchase large equipment.

Obligations of the Successful Applicant: Successful applicants are required to have a mentor for their project, which is generally chosen from a group of experienced DHART SPORE investigators. Alternate qualified mentors will also be considered. Successful applicants are required to interact with the mentor on a regular basis. Awardees are also invited to participate in DHART SPORE activities and will make a presentation at the yearly program retreat. A progress report must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

Any questions can be directed to Kevin Shannon; CDP Director

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