REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Kenneth and Verna Mae Jessen Award

Posted July 15, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium (Big Ten CRC) Foundation recently established the Kenneth and Verna Mae Jessen Award to support basic, correlative, clinical, or population science oncology research based at a Big Ten CRC institution. The award is made possible through the generous support of the Verna Mae Jessen Trust.

DESCRIPTION

The initial award will be $50,000, renewable for an additional $50,000 if defined progress milestones are achieved within one year. It is expected that 100% of the funding provided through the Verna Mae Jessen Trust will support direct research costs. The Big Ten CRC Foundation will provide up to 10% overhead (F&A) from other funding sources.

ELIGIBILITY

Award recipients must be employed by Big Ten CRC member institutions.

CRITERIA

Applications must meet the following criteria:

- Proposal may involve basic, correlative, clinical or population science research.
- Proposal must include a direct tie or lead to oncology research involving human subjects.
- Proposal must be collaborative between two or more Big Ten CRC member institutions.
- Collaborations with investigators from outside the Big Ten CRC are permitted, but funding will be limited to Big Ten CRC institutions.
- Projects may be fully supported by the award or combined with other funding sources.
- Projects must have a defined short-term milestone (within 1 year) and endpoint (within 2 years), with plans to submit a publication no later than six months after project completion.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) describing the proposed project to Abigail Proctor at aproctor@hoosiercancer.org by August 21, 2022. The LOI should be a maximum of one page and include the following information:

- Title of proposal.
- Proposed PI and co-investigators.
- Institutions involved.
- Brief summary of project.
- Defined short term milestone and overall endpoint with timeline for achieving the milestone and endpoint.
- Potential for future funding (grant, industry support, etc.).

LOIs will be reviewed by a committee of senior investigators from the Big Ten CRC institutions, and feedback provided within 2 weeks concerning:

- Enthusiasm of the committee for the concept.
- Whether or not the research team will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- Suggestions on additional collaborators or issues to address in the full proposal.

Invited full proposals will be a maximum of 2-4 pages without references. The applicant should include a biosketch, and clinical trial protocols and letters of support as appropriate.

Applications may include the proposed use of available banked samples. See sample summary: https://www.bigtencrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Big-Ten-CRC-Banked-Sample-Summary.pdf

REVIEW PROCESS

The Board of Directors of the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium Foundation, Inc., appointed the chair of an ad hoc award review committee. The chair will appoint additional members to the review committee. The committee will consist of an odd number of members (at least 3) including the chair.

The committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Big Ten CRC Foundation Board of Directors who will vote to approve funding for the recommended proposal.

The award recipient will be asked to submit a one-page progress report on short-term milestones within one year of funding that will be reviewed by the committee. The committee will make recommendations on whether additional funding should be provided.
IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 21, 2022**: LOIs due.
- **September 4, 2022**: Feedback provided on LOI.
- **October 16, 2022**: Invited full proposals due.
- **November 19, 2022**: Award announced during Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium Summit.
- **November 19, 2023**: Milestone progress report due.

The award recipient will also provide progress reports during the annual Big Ten CRC Summit throughout the life of the project.