



## **Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Funding Opportunity Pipeline Acceleration for Cancer Therapeutics (PACT) initiative**

### **Letters of Intent due by Noon, Friday November 5, 2021**

Email LOI as a single PDF file to [tami-thompson@uiowa.edu](mailto:tami-thompson@uiowa.edu)

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC) is inviting letters of intent for this grant initiative to assist members in their efforts to advance cancer therapeutic drug candidates along the drug development pipeline including clinical evaluation. The maximum amount for individual PACT grants is a total of \$75,000. Each award is eligible for up to \$50,000 from the HCCC and is required to obtain matching support from the home department or division of the PI. It is expected with every \$2 from the HCCC PACT initiative, \$1 will be matched from the department/division for up to \$25,000 in support from the department/division.

The PACT initiative will provide support at key points in the pipeline that have been shown to be major bottlenecks in the process of cancer therapeutics development, namely:

- Completion of pre-clinical studies necessary to obtain an IND.
- The conduct of investigator-initiated studies.
- Development of potential integral or integrated biomarkers (as defined by NCI CTEP) for clinical trials.

Eligible proposals will include studies that will be partially, but not fully, supported by outside sources. An example would be an investigator-initiated study where a pharmaceutical company is willing to provide drug but not cover the cost of vital correlative analysis.

Briefly, the Standard Operating Procedure will be as follows.

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#### **Pipeline Acceleration for Cancer Therapeutics (PACT) initiative**

Letters of intent (LOI) will be solicited. The committee will meet approximately 2 weeks after the LOI due date. The LOIs will be brief (2 pages maximum). Endorsement of the LOI by the leadership and additional members of a MOG or Program will be encouraged. For junior investigators, approval from a primary mentor is also required.

LOIs are expected to contain the following information.

- The specific aims and scientific rationale for study
- Overall study design
- Research team and collaborators
- Enthusiasm for the proposal from the leadership and key members of a MOG and/or research program and how the proposal was discussed with the MOG or research program
- How the project fits within the goals of the PACT initiative
- Feasibility of the proposal such as information on the relevant patient population, availability of drug, status of IND or IRB applications.
- Potential sources of concurrent and future funding
- A rough estimated budget request from the PACT initiative

The PACT committee will review the LOIs and identify select proposals for further development (without a guarantee of funding) based on the following criteria.

- Scientific strength of the concept to be studied including its potential clinical impact
- Appropriateness for PACT initiative support
- Enthusiasm of the MOG and/or research program for the concept
- Feasibility of the study including appropriateness of research team, cost of conducting study, and availability of the appropriate patient population and investigational agents
- Lack of availability of an alternative source of support
- Potential for future funding

The PACT committee will provide feedback to investigators who submit LOIs. For unsuccessful LOIs, the PACT Committee will provide an explanation for why the proposal was not selected for further development. For LOIs selected for full proposals, the committee will advise the applicants on issues that need to be addressed in the full proposal. **The full proposal and detailed budget - up to 5 pages in length with a clinical protocol included as an appendix if appropriate - will be due by Noon on Friday, January 14, 2022 (submit as a single PDF to [tami-thompson@uiowa.edu](mailto:tami-thompson@uiowa.edu)).** This will allow the PACT initiative committee to review the full proposal. The committee uses the same criteria to review full protocols as it does the LOIs. Additional factors considered with full proposals include.

- Appropriateness of the budget
- Availability of PACT initiative funds
- Confirmation that the Department / Division is willing to provide the required matching funds.

Recipients will be required to provide a brief update (in the form of an e-mail) on the progress of the study on a quarterly basis to the PACT initiative committee, and will provide a more complete report on an annual basis. This will include information on subsequent studies, funding and publications resulting from the support.

*October 2021*