

Proposal for UCHC-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control

Purpose:

UConn Storrs and the UConn Health Center (UCHC) are offering funding opportunities for dual-PI pilot projects in cancer control science that will be carried out collaboratively by investigators from each campus. The solicitation and review of applications will be administered jointly by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at UConn Storrs and by UCHC. Proposed projects should be consistent with UConn Health Center’s goal to expand their research program on cancer control and prevention and CHIP’s mission to create new scientific knowledge in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention.

Background:

Consistent with the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) definition of the Cancer Control Continuum (NCI, 2011), cancer control science is defined here as the conduct of basic and applied research in the behavioral and social sciences to create or enhance interventions that, independently or in combination with biomedical approaches, (1) reduce cancer risk, incidence, and death, and (2) improve quality of life for cancer survivors. The focus of this seed grant funding is on studies that are designed to understand the causes of cancer, support the development of efficacious interventions, and/or disseminate the findings from this research in order to increase our understanding of the predictors of cancer and reduce the cancer burden, as outlined in the cancer control continuum below:

Examples of Cancer Control Continuum Research *			
PREVENTION	DETECTION	DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT	SURVIVORSHIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco control • Diet • Physical activity • Sun exposure • Virus exposure • Chemoprevention • Alcohol use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pap test • Mammography • Fecal occult blood test • Sigmoidoscopy • Prostate-specific antigen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed decision-making • Health services and outcomes research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coping • Health promotion • Quality of life • Prevention of recurrence

* Adapted from <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/od/continuum.html> 2011

Funding Available:

Three pilot projects of \$35,000 apiece will be funded under this announcement. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award, and unexpended funds will revert to UCHC, CHIP, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Eligibility:

Research teams consisting of one PI from UCHC and one from UConn Storrs (UConn Storrs includes the regional campuses), are eligible to apply for these seed grants to support cancer control health behavior research initiatives and pilot work with health behavior components. The dual-PI teams are expected to make approximately equal contributions to the proposed research, and to perform new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration and pilot money. Preference is to support new collaborations and thus to fund new UCHC-UConn Storrs research teams. If a team applying for these seed grants has already worked together, the researchers must justify that the proposed research will constitute a significant departure from past work. Postdoctoral fellows,

graduate students, and research associates are not eligible to apply for these pilot grants. These seed grants must ultimately lead to new grant applications submitted to NCI by the dual PI team within two years of receiving the pilot funding

Applications will be reviewed by a joint review committee made up of both UCHC and UConn Storrs researchers, and in some cases, external reviewers. Applications must be the work of the PIs, and for the benefit of the PIs' own research programs.

- ❖ If you would like *assistance with identifying potential collaborators* or would like more information about the UCHC-UConn Storrs seed grant, please contact Jennifer Wang at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu or 860-486-2313.

Letters of Intent and Application Process:

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/UCHC-Storrs_Seed_Grant_LOI) no later than **Friday, January 17, 2014**, and must receive written approval to submit a full proposal. Letter of intent materials must include:

- The project title, PIs' names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, department/institution affiliations, CVs and positions, and the names of key collaborators.
- A brief outline of the proposed research project, including an abstract and an estimate of total project cost, and a description of how it will meet the review criteria (below).
- A statement that the external grant application(s) which derive from the pilot grant research will be submitted to NCI as a dual-PI proposal(s).
- A description of the relevance of the research to priority funding areas in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Division of NCI.

Applicants who have submitted letters of intent that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications, which will be due on **Friday, April 11, 2014**. A description of the format and the page limits of the full proposal will be sent to those who submit a letter of intent which is approved.

Review Criteria for a Successful LOI or Proposal:

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews.
- Approximately equal collaboration among UCHC and UConn Storrs investigators.
- Importance of the research question and relevance to priority funding areas in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Division of NCI.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially new domains in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (cross-disciplinary work will be given preference).
- Feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent proposal for NCI funding no later than the end of July 2016.