

Johnson & Johnson Innovation Lung Cancer Center at Boston University: Pilot Projects

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Submission Deadline: September 7, 2018

BACKGROUND

Johnson & Johnson Innovation LLC and Boston University have announced a five-year alliance that will help accelerate the vision of creating a world without lung cancer. As part of the alliance, Johnson & Johnson is issuing a request for proposals seeking to fund pilot programs developed by teams from across the Boston University ecosystem. These projects will be selected by a joint steering committee comprised of an equal number of representatives from Johnson & Johnson and Boston University.

The Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) at Johnson & Johnson

The cross-sector Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) at Johnson & Johnson is dedicated to transforming the standard of care for this devastating disease. The vision for the LCI is to develop solutions that prevent, intercept and cure lung cancer, enabling a future vision where there is a world without this devastating disease. By focusing on where the best science and innovation is being developed anywhere in the world, the LCI will eliminate lung cancer one patient at a time by developing holistic solutions through consumer products, diagnostics, medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

The Johnson & Johnson Innovation Lung Cancer Center at Boston University

A Johnson & Johnson Innovation Lung Cancer Center at Boston University will be established, allowing close collaboration between Boston University investigators and members of the Lung Cancer Initiative within Johnson & Johnson to work together to develop solutions that prevent, intercept and cure lung cancer. Avrum Spira, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Pathology and Bioinformatics, Boston University has joined Johnson & Johnson Innovation as Global Head, Lung Cancer Initiative, Johnson & Johnson, and will direct the new center.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FRAMEWORK AND FUNDING

Proposals should be focused on preventing, intercepting, or curing lung cancer at early stages and should consider the concepts that lung cancer is often caused by behaviors that lead to chronic exposure to respiratory carcinogens that produce cellular/genomic damage; chronic inflammation; alterations in innate and adaptive immunity; and changes in the pulmonary microbiome. Consequently, these events may trigger the escape of transformed cells from immune surveillance. Proposals that characterize premalignant lesions or that substantially improve the detection of lung cancer at more curable stages will also be prioritized for funding.

Funding

The Joint Steering Committee will consider funding awards between \$100,000 up to a maximum of \$400,000/year (inclusive of indirect costs), for the conduct of the research plan based on an agreed-upon budget.

Period of Performance

It is anticipated that the period of performance will be one year with the opportunity to renew for a second year.

Application Process

This RFP involves a two-stage process for submission and review of applications. The first stage is the Pre-proposal stage. The JSC will identify promising Pre-proposals to be expanded into a Full Proposals in the second stage of the RFP process.

Pre-proposals should be non-confidential.

1. Pre-proposals

Initially, a brief summary of the proposed research (“Pre-proposal”), with a **non-confidential one-page** “Project Synopsis” will be submitted to BU OTD by the BU Principal Investigator (PI). The Pre-proposal should address and contain the following:

- 1) Project background and rationale
- 2) Description of the research objectives and any relevant non-confidential preliminary results
- 3) Simple estimated budget
- 4) Principal Investigator(s)

The Pre-proposals should not include any confidential information, for example, unpublished data, information regarding chemical structures/pathways, or unpublished patent applications. If you are unsure as to whether your submission includes confidential information, please reach out to Thomas McMurry at OTD (tmcmurry@bu.edu).

To request a discussion with Avi Spira regarding a proposal idea please contact Julie Hamill (jhamill3@its.jnj.com). Questions regarding intellectual property and related issues should be addressed to Thomas McMurry at OTD (tmcmurry@bu.edu).

2. Full proposals

The Joint Steering Committee will invite a selection of pre-proposals to advance to the second stage of the application for full proposal submission. At this point, each applicant will be provided a scientific point of contact within Johnson & Johnson to work with while developing the full proposal. Full proposal will be evaluated and selected for funding by the Joint Steering Committee.

DEADLINES

September 7, 2018
September 25, 2018

Pre-proposal submission deadline
Invitations to submit full proposals

JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE

BU

Alliance Director

- **Gloria Waters**, Vice President and Associate Provost for Research

Joint Steering Committee Members

- **Karen Antman**, Dean, Boston University School of Medicine and Provost of the Medical Campus
- **Ken Lutchen**, Dean, College of Engineering

JNJ

Alliance Director

- **Bill Hait**, Global Head, JNJ Global External Innovation

Joint Steering Committee Members

- **Ben Wiegand**, Global Head, World Without Disease Accelerator
- **Bruce Rosengard**, Vice President, Global External Innovation Medical Device