

RADIATION ONCOLOGY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (RADONC TCE) SOLICITATION FOR PILOT FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Radiation Oncology Center of Excellence (RadOnc TCE) was established in 2016 within the Abramson Cancer Center, Perelman School of Medicine. Its broad mission is to provide the necessary infrastructure and mechanisms to harness the unique talents, expertise, and technology present within the Penn community to develop innovative, paradigm-shifting approaches to maximize the benefits of modalities which include radiotherapy for cancer patients.

To achieve its mission, the RadOnc TCE leadership announces a second round of funding to spur new projects with direct translational relevance in areas aligned with its mission (see 5 thematic areas below). These projects will also catalyze interactions between faculty in Radiation Oncology and faculty in other Departments throughout the Penn community. Up to 4, two-year projects (\$120,000 each) will be funded during FY18. Successful completion of specific milestones and submission of a major grant (>\$200k total costs) could extend the funding period to a third year and an additional \$60,000.

These projects are expected to generate the necessary preliminary data or test proof-of-principle ideas that will lead to highly competitive grant applications to major funding agencies by the end of the two-year period.

The five thematic areas of focus for the RadOnc TCE are:

1. Personalized (precision) proton and photon radiotherapy including response of tumor and normal tissues
2. Immuno-radiotherapy including identification of parameters which predict tumor response to the combined modalities (including proton radiotherapy) and new mechanisms which enhance this response
3. Innovative methods to deliver Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) and test the combination of PDT with immunomodulatory drugs in the clinic.
4. Identification, development, and testing novel radiation response modifiers (tumor radiosensitizers and normal tissue radioprotectors) with clinical promise.
5. Tools to compare the effectiveness of Proton therapy and their long-term effects compared to established photon radiation and mechanisms for expanding radiotherapy care in developing nations in a cost-effective manner.

Please follow the application requirements and details below.

Deadlines. The deadline is **Friday, December 15, 5pm EST.** Applications should be submitted by email as **a single pdf** to Chiharu Sako (sakoc@uphs.upenn.edu), Research Administrative Coordinator of the TCE.

Eligibility and requirements.

- All faculty with a primary appointment in the Department of Radiation Oncology and all UPenn faculty are eligible. Each application should include at least 2 co-PIs: One PI from the Department of Radiation Oncology and one PI outside the RadOnc Department. Additional co-PIs are allowed but not required.
- Salary support for the PIs or other faculty is not allowed, but support for other personnel (e.g., postdocs, students, research specialists) is allowed.
- All projects should be completed within two years from the time of award. No-cost extensions will be allowed. By six months following the end of the funded period the PIs are expected to apply for a major extramural grant (>\$200,000 total costs) from governmental or non-governmental entities (e.g., industry, foundations, etc). A final progress report is expected at the completion of the studies.
- Only one submission is permitted from each PI.


Format. The proposals should be succinct with a limit of 3 pages (excluding Cover page and Appendix material-see below), typed with 0.5 in. margins. The pages should be typed in Arial or Times font size 11. The following section limits are recommended:

- Cover Page: Full project title; Name, Title, Department/Division affiliation of each main co-PI; Names of other co-PIs and co-Investigators.
- Specific Aims: ½ page
- Preliminary data and significance: ½ page
- Study design and expected outcomes: 1 ½ page

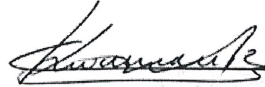
- Statement of how research will lead to major funding within 6 months of the end of the studies: ½ page
- Specific scientific milestones to be reached in the first 2 years.
- Appendix should include only: References(<20), NIH Biosketches for PI(s) and a detailed budget.

Review process and scoring criteria. The review of these applications will be completed within one month of the deadline and the release of the award funds will be immediate. The review committee will consist of faculty from the RadOnc TCE Scientific Advisory Board and Ad-Hoc members, based on required expertise who are not in conflict with the particular applications. The primary criterion for scoring the applications will be scientific merit. This includes innovation, translational potential and likelihood of receiving major funding. The NIH scoring scale (1-9) will be used and specific comments will be included in the reviews.

For any additional information, please contact: sakoc@uphs.upenn.edu or Meena.Swaminathan@uphs.upenn.edu



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