



### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

Funding is available from the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (BCC) for projects that will catalyze the submission of cancer-focused multi-component grant applications, including via program-project (P-type) or cooperative agreement (U-type) mechanisms. The goal of the BCC Team Science Awards Program is to stimulate collaborative and cross-disciplinary approaches to cutting-edge cancer research to enable investigators to be able to compete successfully for external support. These awards are intended to be seed funds that will rapidly result in external, cancer-focused funding to effectively build transdisciplinary research capacity at the BCC. Priority will be given to those proposals that focus on catchment area priority cancers (see list below) with a clear pathway to submissions to external sponsors from teams with established track records of active collaboration.

### **SPECIAL AREAS OF EMPHASIS:**

The BCC has a special interest in submissions that address the following Special Areas of Emphasis (SAEs). The purpose of identifying these SAEs is to encourage submissions in these focus areas.

**1. Community-Engaged Research:** The BCC and its Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) are charged with the development of research that incorporates the input of and directly serves the needs of the population within our catchment area, which includes the entire state of Nebraska. Projects demonstrating evidence of interaction with the BCC COE are a funding priority. Refer to the [COE webpage](#) for additional information and resources. *Preference will be given to submissions that involve the community in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the research. PIs are strongly encouraged to work with the Associate Director of COE, Dr. Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway (swatanabe@unmc.edu), to facilitate community interactions.*

**2. Priority Cancers:** The BCC COE has identified several cancers that pose significant incidence, morbidity and/or mortality burdens and disparities in Nebraska and represent important opportunities to improve cancer outcomes for our catchment population. Projects focusing on the following cancers will be prioritized for funding:

- **Sites for comprehensive growth: Brain, Breast, GI (Colorectal and Pancreas), Lung, and Prostate**
- **Sites for additional growth: Heme Malignancies and Melanoma**

**3. Strategic Thematic Areas:** The BCC is strategically focused on the following four transcancer research themes and applications relating to these themes are strongly encouraged:

- **Rural and Frontier Health**
- **Obesity and Nutrition**
- **Novel Cancer Therapeutic Interventions**
- **Precision Prevention and Medicine**

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- University of Nebraska faculty members at any level are eligible to apply including assistant, associate, or full professors on the tenure track, research track, clinical scholar track, or clinical track. Postdocs and research scientists are not eligible.
- The Principal Investigator and a majority of the Project Leaders and Co-Investigators must be members of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. Faculty who are interested in submitting an application but who are not currently Cancer Center members are encouraged to apply for membership at: [https://unmc.formstack.com/forms/buffett\\_cancer\\_center\\_membership\\_application](https://unmc.formstack.com/forms/buffett_cancer_center_membership_application)
- Evidence that the applicants have a demonstrated track record of meetings and of collaborative research will elevate the competitiveness of the application.
- The Principal Investigator and Project Leaders should have active external peer-reviewed funding in order to be competitive for eventual submission of a multi-component grant application. If this is not currently the case, the PI and Project Leaders should provide information in their Other Support documents regarding their plans to secure funding by the time of submission of the external multi-project proposal.

### **FUNDING AVAILABLE:**

- Budget requests may not exceed \$150,000 in total direct costs for one year.

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS:**

- Funding can be used for research supplies, etc. Some restrictions on budgetary items apply. On the following page is a table listing allowable and unallowable expenditures:

<b>Expenditures Allowed</b>	<b>Expenditures Not Allowed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Research staff and technical assistance</li><li>- Research supplies, fees, and animal maintenance</li><li>- Publication costs</li><li>- Costs of computer time</li><li>- Costs for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project</li><li>- Equipment costing less than \$2,000 (<i>Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount.</i>)</li><li>- Registration fees at scientific meetings</li><li>- Up to \$5,000 to conduct external advisory board (EAB) meetings.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Investigator salaries</li><li>- Secretarial/administrative salaries</li><li>- Membership dues</li><li>- Student tuition and fees</li><li>- Office equipment / supplies and office or laboratory furniture</li><li>- Renovation or maintenance of research or office space</li><li>- Recruitment and relocation expenses</li><li>- Non-medical services to patients (<i>Travel to a clinical site or patient incentives may be allowable.</i>)</li><li>- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers</li><li>- Travel, unless necessary to carry out project aims, including to support EAB participation.</li><li>- Indirect costs</li></ul>

## **LETTER OF INTENT FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS:**

The appended BCC Team Science Awards Program Letter of Intent Template must be used.

### **Required LOI Components:**

#### **1. LOI Template**

#### **2. NIH Biosketch** for each Investigator (*5-page limit*)

**3. Other Research Support** for each Principal Investigator / Project Leader (Other Support for Co-Investigators or Collaborators is not required.) *Note: Other Support demonstrates active and pending support; the purpose of this document is to allow for assessment of an investigator's overall research commitment and to identify any overlap with existing projects. **If the PI and/or Project Leaders do not have active peer-reviewed funding, they should provide information in their Other Support documents regarding plans to secure such funding by the time of submission of the planned external multi-project proposal.***

**General Formatting Requirements:** Minimum 0.5-inch margins and Arial 11-point font are required. (Smaller type size may be used for figures and legends.)

### **Submission Instructions and Deadline:**

Letters of Intent must be submitted as a single PDF to [buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu](mailto:buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu) no later than **11:59 PM CT on Friday, November 15, 2024**. Please include the last names of the project Principal Investigator(s) in the subject line of the email.

## **LETTER OF INTENT REVIEW:**

All LOIs will undergo an initial review process by Cancer Center senior leadership. Those investigator teams selected to move forward in the application process will present a short summary of their proposal to the BCC Director's Council. Projects evaluated as having sufficient merit will be invited to submit full applications, which will be reviewed by a panel of internal and external experts. Applications that are judged to have strong and near-term potential for obtaining large multi-component grants from the NCI, that promote intra- and/or inter-programmatic interactions and/or translation, and that focus on the BCC priority cancers will be given priority for funding. Proposals involving projects informed by members of our catchment area are strongly encouraged. Applicants are also encouraged to collaborate with members of other NCI-designated cancer centers.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Questions regarding this funding opportunity should be directed to Buffett Cancer Center Administration at [buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu](mailto:buffetcancercenter@unmc.edu).

**FRED AND PAMELA BUFFETT CANCER CENTER**  
**TEAM SCIENCE AWARDS PROGRAM**  
LETTER OF INTENT TEMPLATE

**Overall Principal Investigator:**

**Overall Project Title:**

**PROPOSED PROJECTS:**

**Project #1:**

Project Leader:

Co-Investigators, if applicable:

Collaborators, if applicable:

Project Title:

**Project #2:**

Project Leader:

Co-Investigators, if applicable:

Collaborators, if applicable:

Project Title:

**Project #3:**

Project Leader:

Co-Investigators, if applicable:

Collaborators, if applicable:

Project Title:

**Project #4 (optional):**

Project Leader:

Co-Investigators, if applicable:

Collaborators, if applicable:

Project Title:

**PROPOSED CORES:** *(Note that Cores are not FPBCC Shared Resources; the number and types of Cores depend upon the funding mechanism for which an external application submission is planned.)*

**Administrative Core:**

Admin. Core Leader Name(s), Title(s), Department(s), and Email(s):

**Core 1:**

Core Leader Name(s), Title(s), Department(s), and Email(s):

Brief description of how it supports the Projects: (2-3 sentences)

**Core 2:**

Core Leader Name(s), Title(s), Department(s), and Email(s):

Brief description of how it supports the Projects: (2-3 sentences)

**Core 3:**

Core Leader Name(s), Title(s), Department(s), and Email(s):

Brief description of how it supports the Projects: (2-3 sentences)

**Core 4 (if any):**

Core Leader Name(s), Title(s), Department(s), and Email(s):

Brief description of how it supports the Projects: (2-3 sentences)

**One-page summary of the proposed project with the following items:**

- **Project Abstract:** Include how the proposal addresses the needs of the FPBCC catchment area. *500-word maximum.*
- **Description of track record of collaboration among the proposed investigator team of project and core leaders, if any:** Include regularly scheduled group meetings, previous collaborative applications submitted / funded, etc.
- **Details regarding the multi-component external grant application for which the team intends to submit:** Include the funding mechanism and specific funding opportunity announcement number, the names and roles of all project key personnel, and the planned date of submission.