



PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Funding is available from the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (BCC) for collaborative translational research pilot projects. Of particular interest are projects focused on the development of translational cancer therapies that lead to preliminary preclinical data. Projects focused on reverse translation are also welcome. The goal of the Translational Partnerships Awards Program is to foster new or existing research collaborations between basic and clinical cancer researchers and ensure their future success and continuing productivity. Priority will be given to those applications that focus on catchment area priority cancers (see list below) with a clear pathway to grant application submissions to external sponsors, and to the development of investigator-initiated clinical interventional treatment trials for cancer treatments based on BCC science.

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.
- Applicants 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
- Applications must include at least one basic/population/translation science faculty member and one clinical science faculty member with a strong track record of accruing patients to clinical trials.
- Applications must include a plan and timeline for submission of an IIT for internal review.

FUNDING AVAILABLE:

- Budget requests may not exceed \$100,000 in total direct costs. Acceptable budgets may be for one year or for two years (maximum \$50,000 per year).

APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS:

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

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

- **Regulatory Approvals:**
 - For projects involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or select agent research, prior IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC approval is not required at the time of application submission. However, it is expected that the appropriate protocols will be submitted so approval is imminent at the anticipated project start date. All applicable institutional approvals must be in place before award funds can be released. *IRB protocols must be submitted for review within 30 days of notice of award and final IRB approval provided to Cancer Center administration within 60 days of NoA.*
 - For projects involving cancer studies being conducted at UNMC, the relevant protocols must be submitted simultaneously to the IRB and to the BCC Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Contact the BCC Protocol Review and Monitoring System (PRMS) office at 402-559-4232 with questions regarding this process.

APPLICATION FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS:

The BCC Translational Partnerships 2024 Application Template must be used.

Required Application Components:

1. Application Template

2. Detailed Budget ([PHS 398 Form Page 4](#)) with Budget Justification

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

4. Other Research Support for each Principal Investigator / MPI (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.

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:

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF to buffettcancercenter@unmc.edu no later than **11:59 PM CT on Friday, December 6, 2024**. Please include the last names of the project Principal Investigator(s) in the subject line of the email. Proposals not adhering to the application guidelines and instructions will not be reviewed. Funding decisions are expected to be finalized in late 2024.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Applications will be reviewed by BCC senior leadership based on the following criteria: **Impact** and the translational potential of the work; **Scientific Merit** at both the basic and clinical science level; **Potential for Future Funding** as an IIT for cancer treatment and for external grant applications based on results from this project; and **Catchment Area Appropriateness**. These awards are intended to be seed funds that will rapidly result in external, cancer-focused funding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Questions regarding this funding opportunity should be directed to Buffett Cancer Center Administration at buffettcancercenter@unmc.edu.

FRED AND PAMELA BUFFETT CANCER CENTER
TRANSLATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AWARDS PROGRAM 2024 RFA
APPLICATION TEMPLATE

PROJECT INFORMATION

Principal Investigator:

Name and Credentials:

Title:

Department / Division:

Institution:

Co-Principal Investigator(s):

Name and Credentials:

Title:

Department / Division:

Institution:

Co-Investigator(s), if applicable:

Name and Credentials:

Title:

Department / Division:

Institution:

Collaborator(s), if applicable:

Name and Credentials:

Title:

Department / Division:

Institution:

Project Title:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

Scientific Abstract:
500-word maximum.

Lay Abstract, including how the proposal addresses the needs of the FPBCC catchment area:
500-word maximum.

Research Plan:

A. Specific Aims
1-page maximum.

B. Background Significance and Innovation

C. Preliminary Studies, if applicable

D. Approach, including a plan and timeline for submission of the IIT
6-page maximum for sections B-D.

E. References