

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation 2010 Validation of Novel Combinations and Novel Compounds Award Program Guidelines



Powerful thinking advances the cure



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MULTIPLE MYELOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2010 VALIDATION OF NOVEL COMBINATIONS AND NOVEL COMPOUNDS AWARD

Program Description:

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) seeks proposals for the *MMRF Validation of Novel Combinations and Novel Compounds Award*. This initiative will support the testing of:

- a) Novel single agents against molecular targets in multiple myeloma.
- b) Novel agents with approved multiple myeloma therapeutics in innovative, rationally-designed combinations and/or sequences.

Proposals to the *MMRF Validation of Novel Combinations and Novel Compounds Award* are due July 13, 2010.

Novel therapeutics under investigation for multiple myeloma will likely be used as single agents or in combination with other drugs. Applicants must provide preclinical data including various models of the disease, such as fresh myeloma tissue, myeloma cell assays, and animal models to identify optimal pre-clinical validation of novel therapies as single agents or as combinations for multiple myeloma. Proposals may request up to \$200,000 for two (2) years and will be externally peer reviewed by a committee of myeloma and drug discovery experts appointed by the MMRF.

Key Dates:

- May 25, 2010– Request for Applications issued
- July 13, 2010 – Application due date
- October 2010– Applicant notification
- December 2010– Anticipated funding start date

Background:

Multiple myeloma, a plasma cell malignancy, is currently an incurable but treatable disease with approximately 20,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the United States alone. Several therapies are now utilized to help myeloma patients live longer, healthier lives and additional promising targets for developing new therapies have been identified.

The MMRF was founded in 1998 and has raised more nearly **\$140 million** to fund the most promising multiple myeloma research. As part of its mission to accelerate a cure for multiple myeloma, the MMRF is committed to distributing close to **\$15 million in 2010** through its research grant programs.

Significant advances in our understanding of the pathophysiology and molecular biology involved in multiple myeloma have identified numerous putative molecular targets for therapeutic intervention including the proteasome, heat shock proteins, cyclin-dependent kinases, histone deacetylases, receptor tyrosine kinases, NF- κ B, ras/MAPK, STAT3/IL6, PI3Kinase and various antibody targets. In addition, therapeutics that modulate these molecular targets, either inhibiting or enhancing their activity, are under development. Promising treatment options may be currently under study for other hematological malignancies or solid tumors, but have yet to be studied in multiple myeloma.

Process:

Applications for the MMRF Validation of Novel Combinations and Novel Compounds Award are solicited from investigators at domestic or international academic, not-for-profit institutions. An ad hoc scientific review panel comprised of myeloma and other oncology or technology experts, will review applications and provide a scientific rating for each proposal.

The Review Committee will consider most favorably early research that appears promising but is not currently receiving funding. The Committee will also weigh the previous accomplishments of the applicant, the probability of meaningful results from the proposed research, and the likely contribution of the research to the advancement of knowledge of myeloma etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention. All candidates will receive notification from the Foundation office of the final selection as a winner by the Foundation staff. The MMRF does not provide written critiques but will offer verbal feedback via conference call for interested applicants whose proposals are not awarded.

Funds Available:

Proposals may request up to \$200,000 USD, including up to 10% indirect costs, for two (2) years. Only one application per institution will be considered for funding.

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
2010 Validation of Novel Combinations and Novel Compounds Award Program
Application Instructions

A. General Requirements

- a. Relevance:** Proposed preclinical research in multiple myeloma, which is intended to develop innovative approaches to treatment
- b. Required Format:** Applications must be typed in English on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper, using single-spaced text, half-inch margins, using either 10 pt font Arial, 10 pt font Courier or 12 pt font Arial or 12 pt font Times New Roman. Page limitations must be observed for each section as described below.

Note: Sections B – E should be completed in the template titled “Prerequisite Information” which is provided as a downloadable file to applicants on proposalCENTRAL. Download the template, complete each section, save the document and upload as a single PDF file.

B. Abstract

This Section should contain the following:

- 1) A General Audience abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 100 words or less using technical language.
- 2) A Technical abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 100 words or less using non-technical language (i.e. at a level so an eighth grader would understand).

C. Biographical Sketch

This Section should contain the biographical sketches of the Principal Investigator and all key personnel. This includes any personnel who are referenced in the budget. Do not exceed two pages per biographical sketch.

D. Budget

Please provide a detailed budget and budget justification fully outlining specific needs for professional and technical staff and itemized supplies by category.

All budget items should be explained under *Budget Justification*.

E. Other Research Support

Other support is defined as any specific funds or resources, whether Governmental, non-Governmental or institutional, available to the principal investigator (and other key personnel named in the application) in direct support of their research endeavors. This should include active support and pending support.

Information regarding active or pending sources of support available to the principal investigator (and other key personnel named in the application), whether related to this application or not, is an important part of the review and award process and must be included.

Note: Sections F - G should be completed in the template titled “Application Template” which is provided as a downloadable file to applicants on proposalCENTRAL. Download the template, complete each section, save the document and upload as a single PDF file.

F. Project Description

Limited to **10 pages, excluding** supporting materials such as references, figures, and tables (*see Section G regarding submission of supporting materials*). The project description should be presented in the following sequence:

- a) Specific Aims (approximately 1.5 pages)
- b) Scientific Background and Clinical Significance of Proposed Studies (approximately 2.0 pages)
- c) Previous Work/Preliminary Data (approximately 3.5 pages)
- d) Methods, Model Systems and Assays Proposed (approximately 1.5 pages)
- e) Plans for Clinical Application of the Data (approximately 1.0 pages)
- f) Resources and Environment (approximately 0.5 page)

Clinical research protocols, if part of the application, should be submitted as Appendix material. Include IRB/Ethical Committee Approval (non US applicants) date (if protocol has been approved), and IRB/Ethical Committee Compliance number.

G. Supporting Materials (References, Figures and Tables)

A list of referenced publications (i.e. a list of references) in the Project Description should be submitted and are not included in the 10 page limit for the Project Description. Recent and relevant applicant’s publications should be included in Section J.

Figures referenced in the project description should be submitted are not included in the 10 page limit for the Project Description.

Tables referenced in the project description should be submitted and are not included in the 10 page limit for the Project Description.

Note: There is no template provided for Sections H – J. These documents need to upload as separate PDF files. Please see each section for any specific instructions or notes.

H. Laboratory Animals Statement

For projects which involve laboratory animals, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Approval Date and Animal Welfare Assurance number must be given. Non US applicants should submit approval documentation from the Animal Ethics Committee.

Note: If the applicant has documentation to submit (in addition to what is described above) then this documentation needs to upload as a PDF file.

I. Biohazards Statement

An institutional statement and assurances regarding potential biohazards and safeguards must be included. This may not be applicable to applicants from countries outside the US.

Note: The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (or equivalent office) at most institutes and universities can provide the applicant with a letter stating that the laboratory

and/or the applicant is in compliance with applicable laws. This is the document that should be submitted.

J. Relevant Publications

A set of the applicant's publications which are relevant to the proposed project can be included. Please be aware that any password protection feature **must** be removed. Many articles when downloaded from journal sites contain password protection to prevent modifications of the document. Please note if the password protection is not removed reviewers will have difficulty in downloading your application. **Limit:** applicants will be limited to five (5) publications. Applications with more than five (5) publications will not be accepted. Submitting numerous large files adds to the download time of your application and can add time delays to the submission site.

*Note: Applicants can either include all publications into one document as a **Publication Appendix** or submit each publication as a separate **Appendix**. Include in the name of the document(s) or Appendix(s) the following: 1) Applicant's last name and 2) what the document or appendix is. For example: **Smith Publication Appendix.pdf** (one document with all publications) or **Smith Paper on Mouse Model X.pdf** and **Smith Paper on Myeloma Drug Y.pdf**, etc.*

K. Signatures: The signature page is provided as printable document and is the last step before submitting the application. Applicants should print the signature page, sign (applicant) then have appropriate institutional representatives sign the document such as the Institute Signing Official and Finance Officials. *Please check with your institute's Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure you are obtaining the appropriate signatures.* Once signed, the document needs to be scanned, converted to a PDF and uploaded with the grant application. *Note: This signature page needs to upload as a PDF file. See Section L: Complete and Submit the Application for instructions.*

L. Complete and Submit the Application:

Applicants and institutes' grants and contracts offices need to register with proposalCENTRAL at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>. Applicants must submit a complete application using proposalCENTRAL. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be submitted via proposalCENTRAL by 5:00 PM EDT on July 13, 2010.

Applications received after this date will not be considered.