

# WVU CANCER INSTITUTE (WVUCI) PILOT PROJECT GRANTS (PPG)

**Deadline for submission of all WVUCI PPG applications is Monday, November 20, 2017 (5:00 PM).**

- **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (ACS) INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH GRANT (IRG) PPG**
- **“LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN” (LTJB) CNS MALIGNANCY PPG**
- **“PHILLIP R. DINO (PRD) INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FUND” PPG**

The WVU Cancer Institute and Office of Research and Graduate Education announce the availability of three pilot award funding mechanisms: the [American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#), supported Pilot Project Grants (PPG), the “Let the Journey Begin” CNS Malignancy focused PPG and the “Phillip R. Dino Innovative Research Fund” PPG, with **applications due Monday, November 20, 2017**.

## **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants may include faculty from the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, or other WVU Schools and Colleges. Prior membership in the WVU Cancer Institute/Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center is not necessary, however those with proposals selected will need to submit an application for membership prior to distribution of funds.

### **ACS IRG PPGs:**

As stated in the ACS Institutional Research Grant (IRG) policy and guidelines, IRG PPGs are intended to support independent, self-directed investigators early in their careers. These individuals (usually at the rank of assistant professor or equivalent) must be eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants, but may not currently hold such a grant. Applicants for the ACS PPGs should be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment as aligned with specific ACS guidelines. Strong preference will be given to those applicants who have not received prior support from the ACS. Recipients of IRG PPGs must be, at the time of the application, citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States, or must have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

### **LTJB & PRD PPGs:**

Applicants for the “Let the Journey Begin” CNS malignancy focused PPG or “Phillip R. Dino Innovative Research Fund” PPG may be at any academic rank.

## **SCOPE OF ACS IRG PROJECTS**

Projects must be relevant to the overall goals of the WVU Cancer Institute and its research programs of emphasis (including, but not limited to the following): mechanisms of metastasis and therapeutic

response, breast cancer, hematological malignancies/bone marrow transplantation, tobacco use etiology/prevention or treatment, lung cancer, GI cancers, health outcomes or services research, cancer-focused populations/cancer health disparities research, and experimental therapeutics. Each proposal must be presented in the context of a project that is slated for submission for extramural support. Of the potential applications to be funded, one will be supported in the area of cancer control/prevention in medically underserved patients, an identified interest of the ACS and the WVUCI. For the latter RFA, projects must address areas of special interests specifically identified by ACS, including psychosocial and behavioral research, health policy or health services research, cancer in the poor and medically underserved, or childhood cancer.

## **SCOPE OF “LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN” CNS MALIGNANCY PROJECTS**

Projects must be relevant to either primary adult brain tumors or brain metastases secondary to other adult malignancies and can include, but are not limited to: investigations of biomarkers to predict CNS metastasis; microenvironment determinants of therapeutic response; innovative therapeutic approaches for treatment of primary and secondary CNS malignancies; and fundamental mechanistic research related to CNS tumor biology on a broad scale. Proposals must be presented in the context of a project that has the potential to be competitive for subsequent extramural support. Projects with clear translational potential and inclusion of collaborative partnerships will be favorably reviewed.

## **SCOPE OF “PHILLIP R. DINO” PROJECTS**

Projects may include issues pertaining to smoking cessation in cancer patients and may entail either traditional hypothesis testing or evaluations of changes in practice. Where relevant, patient input must be a component which may include review of final study design, conduct, evaluation, and translation to policy/practice changes. Such input should occur prior to application and, if possible, as part of a formal plan post award, including translation and dissemination to non-academic audiences. In addition, projects aimed at better understanding the effects of electronic cigarette use (including but not limited to E-cigarettes safety, efficacy as an aid to smoking cessation, studies focused on E-cigarette use in cancer patients) are also welcome in response to this funding mechanism. Regardless of study design and model the research must have clear potential for translation to improving health and enhancing patient outcomes.

## **AMOUNT OF AWARD**

### **ACS IRG PPG:**

Up to 3 meritorious ACS awards in addition to a special interest meritorious ACS award will be funded this cycle with a maximum budget of \$30,000/award.

### **Let the Journey Begin PPG:**

One meritorious award of up to \$50,000 focused on CNS malignancies will be supported by the “Let the Journey Begin” fund.

### **Phillip R. Dino PPG:**

One meritorious award of \$25,000 will be supported by the "Phillip R. Dino Innovative Research Fund".

Funds will be available on approximately December 15, 2017 and must be spent within a 12 month period. While applications received in response to these funding opportunities will be reviewed separately, the expenditures allowed are similar, as are the scientific review criteria, as summarized below.

## **EXPENDITURES ALLOWED**

(APPROPRIATE JUSTIFICATION MUST BE INCLUDED)

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the faculty member
- Equipment costing less than \$2,000. (Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount)
- Registration fees at scientific meetings (only for the ACS grant)

## **EXPENDITURES NOT ALLOWED**

- Salary of principal investigator (IRG Chair or pilot project grant recipient)
- Secretarial/administrative salaries
- Foreign travel (special consideration given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada)
- Books and periodicals
- Membership dues
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies
- Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site is an allowable expense)
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories

## **REVIEW CRITERIA**

All projects will be reviewed based on overall impact on the field, innovation, significance, approach, qualification of the investigator or investigative team, and availability of resources needed (environment) consistent with current NIH review criteria. Further, ACS and LTJB applications will be scored based, in part, on their likelihood of supporting development of a competitive extramural grant submission within a reasonable timeframe with the Phillip R. Dino criteria specifically emphasizing the efficient translation of the work to enhancing patient outcomes. Grants that have been submitted for extramural support, and favorably reviewed but not funded, may be submitted to the appropriate category (ACS, "Let the Journey Begin," or "Phillip R. Dino") using the standard form with additional inclusion of the applicant's summary statement as an appendix outside of the page limitations. Appropriate IRB or ACUC approvals must be in place prior to initiation of funding, but are not required at the time of submission. However, if approval is not in place within 90 days of notification of funding support may be revoked.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications and support material should be submitted electronically by the **close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Monday, November 20, 2017** to the Office of Research and Graduate Education, G117 Erma Byrd Biomedical Building, to Ms. Holly Legleiter at [hlegleiter@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:hlegleiter@hsc.wvu.edu)

### **ACS IRG PPG:**

Complete the online application form for the ACS IRG, which includes biographical sketch in the required ACS 2 page format. Please note on the ACS application that verification of applicant eligibility by Department Chair must be obtained via signature prior to submission of an application; applicants must be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment, must be salaried faculty with appropriate committed research facilities, and may not have competitive national funding active at the start date of the proposed IRG allocation as noted earlier in this RFA.

### **Let the Journey Begin PPG:**

Complete the online application form for the "Let the Journey Begin" proposals. As noted previously this funding mechanism is open to investigators at all academic ranks and faculty may have additional national funding providing there is clearly no overlap of existing funding with the proposal for which support is requested.

### **Phillip R. Dino PPG:**

Complete the online application form for the "Phillip R. Dino" proposals. As noted previously this funding mechanism is open to investigators at all academic ranks and faculty may have additional national funding providing there is clearly no overlap of existing funding with the proposal for which support is requested.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Individuals funded by WVUCI PPGs must cite support of grant # IRG-16-143-07-IRG from the American Cancer Society, the WVU Cancer Institute Let the Journey Begin Fund, or Phillip R. Dino Innovative Research Fund, as applicable, on all abstracts, manuscripts, press releases, or other media communications.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or submission of your application please contact Dr. Linda Vona-Davis at [lvdavis@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:lvdavis@hsc.wvu.edu).