

**Penn State Hershey Melanoma Center
Amended Request for Applications**

to support Translational Melanoma Research

Open throughout 2013 depending on funding

Background: The Penn State Hershey Melanoma Center announces the availability of funds to support Translational Research Initiatives that will lead to better treatments for melanoma patients.

Eligibility Criteria: Principal investigator must be a member of the Penn State Hershey Melanoma Center or applicants need to collaborate with a member of the Center serving as Co-Principal Investigators (Melanoma Center members can be identified at <http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/melanoma/aboutus/membership>)

Proposals are expected to meet one or more of the criteria listed below:

1. PI or Co-PI must be a Melanoma Center Member.
2. Propose novel translational research that has the potential to lead to better treatments for melanoma patients.

Program Guidelines: Applications for the Penn State Hershey Melanoma Center research initiative may request up to \$20,000 in direct costs (no indirect costs will be allowed) for a period of up to 12 months. Salary support will be allowed for PI, Co-PI and support staff. Awards will run for a period of up to 12 calendar months. Each application should be written taking into consideration that the scope of work must be accomplished in one-year or less. The feasibility of being able to accomplish the proposed studies within one-year will be taken into consideration in evaluating the application. It is expected that these funds will result in publishable results and will provide preliminary data that will lead to independent support from the National Cancer Institute or other national agencies. A Progress Report needs to be submitted to the Director of the Penn State Melanoma Center within 30 days of the end of the funding period.

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed by an ad hoc panel appointed by the Penn State Melanoma Center leadership.

Awards: It is anticipated that three awards will be made based on the receipt of meritorious applications.

Applications Should Follow the Following Format:

Arial 11 font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced.

1. Face Page

Should be titled “Penn State Melanoma Center Translational Research Initiative Application” and include a descriptive title of the project and the name, position, department, contact information (phone & email) and signature of the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigator(s).

2. Abstract

Briefly summarize the objective, specific aims and significance of the project. Include a brief description of the Melanoma Focus that will be understood by a non-scientific lay audience.

3. Research Plan

Sections a-d of the Research Plan should not exceed five (5) single spaced pages (including figures and tables), organized as follows:

- a. Specific Aims (Indicate in a few sentences how the Specific Aims of this Research Initiative meet the Eligibility Criteria described above.)
- b. Background and Significance
- c. Preliminary Studies (if available)
- d. Research Design/Methods/Anticipated Results
- e. Human Subjects – describe involvement, if any
- f. Vertebrate Animals – describe involvement, if any
- g. Literature Cited

4. Budget

Use PHS 398 Detailed Budget <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.pdf> and include budget justification (relating funds to scientific plan.)

5. Biographical Sketch

Enclose a biographical sketch of Principal Investigator and all collaborators. Use PHS 398 Biographical Sketch Format, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>

6. Future Plans

Describe anticipated plans to apply for external funding making use of data obtained from this research initiative. Include the identity of the most probable sponsor and the expected date for submitting the first such application.

7. Attachments

Attach letters from the Department Chairs of Principal Investigator and all collaborators documenting that the investigators have adequate dedicated time to carry out the proposed Research Initiative.

Investigators should submit an electronic version of the application via email to Anton Mulder, Penn State Melanoma Center Administrator, at amulder@hmc.psu.edu. A Proposal Clearance Form (“Blue Sheet”) needs to be included at the time of submission with approval for research that involves human subjects, vertebrate animals and/or biohazards. Any questions regarding these instructions or other aspects of the RFA should be referred to Gavin Robertson, Melanoma Center Director at extension 8098 or gpr11@psu.edu.