



## UTDRO Collaborative Research Seed Grant Competition 2017

### Terms of Reference

#### I. Objective

The primary purpose of this competition is to support innovative and creative research that will impact radiation medicine and improve patient outcome. One of the most important strategies to attain higher research impact by the University of Toronto - Department of Radiation Oncology (UTDRO) is to amplify existing strengths at the at the Odette Cancer Centre (OCC), the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PM), the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, the Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre (Trillium Health Partners), and the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre by building new collaborations amongst these programs.

#### II. Criteria

Applications from all areas and disciplines of radiation medicine research will be considered, and will be evaluated based on a common set of criteria. Criteria for funding, in addition to the standard metrics of scientific merit and potential impact on clinical outcome, will include co-leadership from at least two of four cancer centres, and engagement of all four centres whenever feasible. The review criteria for the full application will include, but not necessarily be restricted to five assessment categories: Innovation, Research Strategy, Investigator(s), Impact and Collaboration. Collaboration between the three centres will be weighted heavily in the overall ranking of the applications.

#### III. Number of awards

There will be a single competition per academic year. Two seed-grants of \$50,000 each will be awarded in each competition. Grant expenditures may be extended over two years if justified in the application. Grants will be non-renewable. Funding will be provided to support the direct costs of research, including supplies, salaries (but not UTDRO faculty salaries), and equipment associated with the proposed work. Equipment requests will not exceed 20% of the requested budget. Indirect costs will not be eligible. Proposals should include a description of how the requested funds will be allocated amongst the centres.

#### IV. Eligibility

This competition will be open to all full and affiliated faculty members of UTDRO. Proposals will be co-led by co-Principal Investigators from at least two centres, with funds administered at Royal Victoria Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Credit Valley Hospital or the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Engagement of all UTDRO-affiliated centres is expected whenever feasible. In cases where all centres are not engaged, justification will be required. Applications will need to include a clear description of the roles and responsibilities of each centre towards achieving the scientific objectives of the proposed research

#### V. Process

- a) Call for applications: February 15, 2017
- b) Application deadline: March 30, 2017
- c) Funding announcement by May 1, 2017
- d) Funding start date: June 1, 2017



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The primary purpose of this funding initiative is to support meritorious projects, which have the potential to significantly impact the science of radiation medicine, and improve patient outcome. Indicators of the success of this collaborative research program will include: Evidence of sustained, increased collaboration between the OCC, PM, the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, Trillium Health Partners and the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre. This might include, but is not limited to, co-leadership of clinical trials, co-development of clinical protocols, additional collaborative projects, co-supervision of trainees, and co-published papers. Further criteria for success are: Evidence of impact on clinical outcome and External peer-reviewed funding to support long-term collaborative research initiatives.

### APPLICATION FORM

The original application form must be submitted to the email address below.

#### A. ENCLOSURES

The proposal will contain no more than 4 pages of single-spaced text (Times New Roman, not smaller than 12 font type), plus a maximum of 2 pages of figures/tables/charts and associated legends. References and the budget justification are excluded from the page count.

The application will include the following:

1. **A scientific summary** to be included in the 4-page document.
2. **A scientific proposal** clearly stating the aims of the project including any previous work in the area, experimental design, methods and analysis. Note that preliminary data are allowed but not required. Details of the investigator(s) including which member(s) of the research team will be responsible for which aspect of the project, and a rationale for their inclusion in the project are required, as well as a description of the research environment where the work will take place.
3. **An impact and relevance statement** explicitly describing how the proposed work could move the field forward and accelerate progress in radiation medicine research. The potential impact of the research to clinical practice should be explicitly stated, and the statement should address the expected “next steps” and future direction following completion of the project.
4. **A collaboration statement** explicitly describing how the project allows achievement of synergy between investigators at the Odette Cancer Centre (OCC), the Princess Margaret Cancer Center, the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, Credit Valley Hospital, and Royal Victoria Hospital.
5. **A budget justification** related to the supplies, equipment and personnel associated with the research project. This must include the number of personnel required to complete the work and a description of their experience and/or education level and their commitment to the project. The budget justification is not part of the 4-page document.

Completed applications must be received by **March 30, 2017 at 5:00pm**

Applications must be e-mailed directly to: **Valeria Guido-Taylor** at

[valeria.guido@utoronto.ca](mailto:valeria.guido@utoronto.ca)

**LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

**Awards will begin June 1, 2017**