

Request for submission of proposals for Centers of Excellence  
to be funded by the **Johnson Cancer Research Center**

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The purpose of this funding opportunity is to establish and fund the Centers of Excellence (COE) program at the Johnson Cancer Research Center (JCRC) at Kansas State University. COEs are intended to support integrated, multi-project research programs that have a well-defined, central research focus on cancer. Our vision of a COE is a program consisting of interrelated cancer research projects, each capable of standing on its own scientific merit but complementing the other projects in the COE.

The COE grant applicant will submit the proposal using the electronic application process available on the JCRC website. In order to help us plan the review process a MANDATORY letter of intent will be due March 1, 2018. Please provide the following information:

COE Title

PI and affiliation

Sub Project Titles (list all)

Subproject CO-PIs and affiliation

The complete COE grant application will be due March 15, 2018. The application will include a narrative describing the proposed COE and the scientific activities that are proposed using the section formats indicated below. Strong justification and rationale for the formation of the COE is required.

The COE application must include a minimum of two individual research projects that contribute to the scientific objective. Each individual research project should reflect a distinct, separate, scientifically meritorious research effort led by an independent investigator. In addition, the individual projects should be clearly interrelated and synergistic so that the research ideas, efforts, and outcomes of the program as a whole will offer a distinct advantage over pursuing the individual projects separately.

Clinical trials are allowed but must be part of a larger COE cancer focus and must be clearly integrated into the basic and/or applied science of the COE. The use of shared resources is encouraged to facilitate scientific interaction and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Research Strategy:

1) Overview

The COE overview section describes the overall significance, innovation and approach of the COE application and should highlight the program's conceptual unity by describing the cancer-relevant, scientific problems to be addressed and laying out the

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research strategy. The COE overview section should include a description of the major research objectives and strategic plan. The applicant should explain how the proposed projects and shared resources will be coordinated and work together to address the overall goals and aims of the COE. This section must clearly outline the synergy of the COE program and describe how the COE will be more effective than if the projects were done independently. In particular, the Research Strategy should describe how the proposed projects and shared resources will be used by the individual projects.

2) Research Program proposals (separate sections to be included for each individual research project)

Describe the proposed cancer-relevant research and how it will contribute to meeting the COE goals and objectives, and explain the rationale for selecting the methods to accomplish the specific aims.

This section should declare the basic and/or translational cancer significance of the proposed work and define the goals that will address these points:

- Specify the contributions of each independent research project to the Program objectives
- Provide a research project flow chart for each stand-alone project
- Provide an estimated timeline for the individual projects
- Integrate the key milestones for the project flowcharts into a flowchart for the COE program
- In addition to the standard scientific description, the interactions among projects and core facilities should be described within each project.

3) Budget

A detailed budget should be included for the entire project. Enough detail should be provided to allow a scientific expert to judge if the budget is appropriate. In particular, does the budget allow for the successful execution of the proposed work?

Grant budgets will be up to \$50,000 per year up to two years total funding. (Renewal will be at the completion of a progress report at the end of year one.)

A major emphasis of the COE in the context of a multi-project application involves the synergism of projects. The goal of the Johnson Cancer Research Center is to enhance

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scientific knowledge, ideas, and outcomes obtained through the cooperative interactions of the individual projects. The proposed merger of complementary skills, perspectives, and resources of the COE has the potential to produce outcomes greater than would otherwise be achieved. Examples of synergy include, but are not limited to: sharing data, samples, reagents, cell lines, subject population(s), technologies, research approaches, data management/analytical tools, and model organisms, which may impact the direction of science and research outcomes in the COE.

Project application review will be done extramurally. Projects will be scored on scientific merit, COE synergy and likelihood of the project to develop into a PO1-type extramural grant. Applications are due electronically March 15, 2018.

Applicants are required to prepare applications which include the following information in the indicated order as a **single** PDF file with 11 point Ariel font (other file formats will not be accepted):

1. Descriptive title of proposed activity
2. Name(s), departments, campus address(es) and telephone number(s) of the PI and collaborating PIs
3. Names of other key personnel
4. Participating departments
5. Budget and justification (no more than 1 page per research project)
6. Overview, COE project vision, rationale for the creation of the COE, synergy and interaction of the projects (no more than 2 pages, including citations)
7. Project description (no more than 5 pages for each included project, including citations)
8. 5-page NIH-style biosketches of PI and collaborating PIs. Include a single biographical sketch for each individual person listed in the application regardless of the number of projects in which they participate.
9. Research & Related Other Project Information (include all approvals for Biohazards, Radiation Hazards, Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals)
10. Facilities and Other Resources (no more than 1 page per project and not to be used to circumvent the 5 page project description)

Contact Dr. Stephen K. Chapes, Interim Director, Johnson Cancer Research Center for questions regarding this request for application (RFA). Letter of intent is due March 1, 2018. Complete Applications are due electronically March 15, 2018. Both use the electronic submission process available on the JCRC website.