

**NIH/NCI Funding Opportunity “Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)”**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. Are there advantages or disadvantages if the PIs are all from the same institution?** This is neither an advantage nor disadvantage for the application. It will be important to thoroughly describe the expertise of each investigator, what capacity they will contribute to the project and to justify their role, percent effort, and any salary that may be requested.
- 2. What is the difference between a Co-PI and a Co-Investigator?** PD/PI(s) are individual(s) designated to direct the project being supported by the grant. A Co-Investigator is an individual involved with the PD/PI in the scientific development or execution of a project. A Co-Investigator typically devotes a specified percentage of time to the project and is considered senior/key personnel. The role type “Co-PI” is not used by the NIH, rather MPI designates multiple principal investigators. More information regarding this can be found on the [NIH website](#).
- 3. How will the Scientific Review Group evaluate applications?** Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Scientific Review Group(s) convened by the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). There is no Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) for this funding opportunity. The Scientific Review Group will review applications according to the specific review criteria guidelines outlined in the funding opportunity.
- 4. For the characterization of tissue-engineered technology, should we use animal or human models?** This funding opportunity supports the development of tissue-engineered in vitro and ex vivo systems that reflect the pathology and physiology of human disease as new tools for understanding cancer biology. The choice of model will depend on many factors and will depend on the scope of the cancer research question being addressed in the project. It will be important to clearly describe the rationale for the species used to characterize the technology.
- 5. Is the funding opportunity more focused on foundational technologies that would be applicable to numerous cancer types versus specific cancer types?** The tissue-engineered technologies developed and characterized for the projects submitted in response to the funding opportunity do not have a requirement to be foundational technologies that could be applied to numerous cancer types. It is acknowledged that the technologies may have limited utility for the particular cancer research question being addressed in the project.
- 6. How much emphasis will be placed on translational potential?** There is no requirement for projects that have immediate translational potential. Projects that are aimed at understanding mechanisms of basic cancer biology will be responsive to this funding opportunity.
- 7. Are you anticipating submissions that lean more toward biological questions, or technology development?** We are expecting technology development in the context of answering a cancer biology question. There must be an underlying cancer research question that is being addressed

in the project.

8. **Are there any other funding opportunities supporting tissue engineered models for cancer research?** The [Oncology Models Forum](#) funding opportunity, “Research Projects to Enhance Applicability of Mammalian Models for Translational Research (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)”, encourages submission of projects that utilize mammalian models to address an unmet clinical need. Examples relevant to tissue engineered models include testing novel approaches to unexplored translational questions, further development of available or novel technologies, and developing engineering resources to empower integrated mammalian model and human translational research. The [Physical Sciences – Oncology Network](#) funding opportunity, “Research Projects in Physical Sciences-Oncology (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)”, encourages submissions from transdisciplinary teams that foster the convergence of physical sciences approaches and perspectives with cancer research to advance our understanding of cancer biology and oncology.