

CHAD CARR PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR CENTER RESEARCH INITIATIVE

<https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pediatric-brain-tumor-research-initiative>

Proof of Principle Research Collaboration (P3RC) Awards (2021-2022)

The UM Department of Pediatrics and UM Comprehensive Cancer Center are pleased to announce the call for *proof of principle* proposals to advance new therapeutic approaches in the treatment of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas (DIPG) or related Pediatric brain cancers (e.g. atypical high grade brain stem glioma etc.).

DIPG is an incurable brain tumor that primarily affects infants and children. There is a desperate need for new therapeutic drug delivery approaches and novel small molecule and immunotherapeutic treatment strategies to improve the outcome of children diagnosed with this cancer. The P3 Research Collaboration Awards are designed to bring teams of UM investigators from complementary scientific disciplines together to work on research strategies and approaches aligned with the goals of the P3RC awards program to cure DIPG.

Teams are required to meet the following criteria:

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Clinical Trial Development - projects designed to advance clinical trials in DIPG. As examples, trials that advance available drug compounds not currently being tested in this disease, those that reduce morbidity of current radiotherapy approaches or those that combine modalities of therapies to gain therapeutic advantage.
- Drug Delivery - projects designed to develop improved technological and drug delivery system approaches to directly target DIPG tumors within the brainstem
- Cellular Therapy - projects that will advance cellular therapeutic approaches as a strategy to treat DIPG
- Immunotherapeutics - projects that will advance immunotherapy approaches to treat DIPG

RESEARCH TEAMS REQUIREMENTS

- Successful applications will address at least one of the research priority themes
- Applications must include both investigators working in the field of pediatric brain cancer research and collaborating investigators whose research programs do not currently focus on DIPG biology or treatment.
- The P3RC teams are encouraged to include investigators from any department, school/college within the University of Michigan whose research expertise and approaches have the potential to advance a cure for DIPG.
- Successful applications will articulate how new scientific collaborations can accelerate progress in devising new treatments for DIPG.

FUNDING / BUDGETS

- New projects are eligible to apply for up to \$100,000 for one year. During the initial six-month funding period up to \$50,000 will be awarded. Research teams will be required to submit an interval progress report that documents robust progress in meeting project milestones over the first six months of funding; with evidence of good progress, additional funds will be distributed. *Exceptions to the 6-month time line for initial progress reports will be considered for projects that require IRB approval prior to implementation.*
- The budget justification must include expected deliverables for the project period. The project research plan must include an explanation of how the deliverables from the P3RC funding provides a foundation for further therapeutic discovery, therapeutic development or a clinical trial in DIPG. The budget justification must clearly link costs with specific expected deliverables for the project period.
- Research teams that received funding in 2020-2021 to support laboratory research are eligible to request additional funding of up to \$30,000, in order to accomplish additional aims and experiment goals that stem from initial project data. Proposals must include the new aims/experimental plans and describe the progress on the project including publications (published/submitted), awards obtained (external/internal), and pending grant submissions resulting from this funding.

- Research teams that received funding in 2020-2021 for clinical trial-related foundational studies, and whose progress reports document a strong potential to rapidly proceed to planning and/or conducting a clinical trial are eligible to request up to \$50,000 of additional support.

REPORTING

- P3RC teams will be required to submit interim progress reports at six months and comprehensive progress reports at the end of the one-year funding period. Projects that meet &/or exceed planned milestones will be eligible for additional funding, as described above.
- Investigators supported by the P3RC are required to acknowledge the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center in the UM Department of Pediatrics & UM Cancer Center P3RC program in all publications and presentations that emanate from the research funding.
- Additionally, investigators will be required to sign an MOU that all scientific resources developed as a consequence of the P3RC funding, (e.g. cell lines, tumor sequencing data, etc.) will be made available to investigators who are members of the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center. Investigators funded through this mechanism regardless of home unit will be members of the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must follow the application format as described below.
- Statement of Support signed by all investigators must accompany the application.
- Applications are submitted as a single PDF of all pages/sections.
- Applications are submitted through [Competition Space](#).
- Contact: Department of Pediatrics, attention Falcia Modrzynski fmodrzn@med.umich.edu
- Timeline:
 - Applications are accepted on twice yearly basis (September and January)
 - Award notifications provided 2-3 months after grant submission.
 - Progress reports are due at 6 months and 12 months

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Application Format

Principal Coordinating Investigator (name and department):

P3RC Team Members (include department affiliations):

In 2-3 sentences describe anticipated roles of each team member.

Non UM Collaborators (if applicable):

Project Focus Area (check all that apply):

- Drug delivery/device development
- Clinical trial
- Cellular therapy
- Immunotherapeutics

Project Goals (250 words; can be bullet statements):

Project Approach (limited to no more than one page; please note the project plan must include an explanation of how the deliverables from P3RC funding will provide a foundation for further therapeutic discovery, therapeutic development or a clinical trial in DIPG):

Project Milestones (describe specific work to be completed within six months for each project goal; can be bulleted statements):

Budget and Rationale (should include planned expenditures by category examples provided below):

*personnel

*equipment/reagents

*specified project costs (e.g. core recharges, sequencing costs, disposable reagents, any expendable category related to completing project milestones)

(*please note hosting and travel will not be approved)

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Statement of Support

Required statement of support to the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Center Research Initiative requires acknowledgement of funding source and sharing of all research information and resources developed by project to investigators in the Chad Carr Pediatric Brain Tumor Center. Signature attests to the collaborative sharing of data, discoveries and resources developed from this funding mechanism.

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Investigator signature _____

Date of application: _____