



# Barrett's Esophagus Translational Research Network (BETRNet) Pilot Project Award Program *Request for Applications*

The CWRU BETRNet Research Center, supported by NIH/NCI U54CA163060, announces a program to encourage innovative transdisciplinary and translational research related to Barrett's Esophagus (BE). The overall objectives of the program are: (1) to encourage innovative transdisciplinary and translational research, especially high risk/high impact research; (2) to explore emerging opportunities and to enhance productivity of the research projects in the BETRNet, and; (3) to attract new researchers, resources and technologies to conduct translational research on BE and Esophageal Adenocarcinoma (EAC).

Limited awards of up to \$40,000/year will be made to eligible applicants for one year, with the possibility of a second year of funding based on the success of the pilot. Pilot projects must have a transdisciplinary approach and translational research plan focused on BE and/or EAC in one of the focus areas defined by BETRNet.

The specific aims of the pilot project award program are as follows:

1. To award pilot projects to enhance and extend the research goals and improve utilization of resources generated by the BETRNet primary projects;
2. To encourage innovative transdisciplinary approaches to increase understanding and develop intervention strategies focused on improving outcomes in patients with BE and EAC;
3. To obtain preliminary data to enable generation of proposals to successfully compete for funding at the national level; and
4. To encourage cross institutional collaboration among BETRNet participating institutions.

## **Eligibility for Pilot/Feasibility Awards**

All faculty with an appointment at the Assistant Professor level or higher at institutions participating in BETRNet are eligible to apply for pilot project funding. These institutions include:

- Case Western Reserve University
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Johns Hopkins University
- University North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Washington
- Washington University at St. Louis
- Mayo Clinic

This includes faculty at all schools of the universities and/or affiliated healthcare centers. Investigators at the Instructor level will be considered eligible, if applications are accompanied by letters of support from department chairs indicating commitment to faculty positions at the Assistant Professor level by the time scheduled for pilot project initiation.

## **Additional Information**

Pilot projects must have at least one investigator and another collaborator from a different discipline to encourage interdisciplinary-transdisciplinary research. To accommodate submission of projects from investigators who may not be familiar with complementary investigators, pilot projects may be submitted by individual investigators

representing either basic or clinical science; however, if the project is identified as meritorious and selected for funding, the BETRNet Steering Committee will seek to identify potential collaborators in alternative disciplines, basic or clinical, one of which should be identified as co-investigator before pilot will be awarded.

### Cross-BETRNet Pilot Projects

Cross Center Projects are regarded as special opportunities to advance research questions, which could not be investigated at an individual institution alone. These opportunities usually have one or more of the advantages listed below and the value of these opportunities will be an important consideration in evaluating proposals for funding as cross center projects.

- 1.) Increased sample size with samples obtained from multiple centers. Samples could be people, specimens, animals, etc. The BETRNet will be particularly advantaged in collaborating with other BETRNet Centers in that familial Barrett's' esophagus kindreds identified at other BETRNet Centers will help increase our ability to accrue rare kindreds with multiple affected members.
- 2.) Access complementary skills, resources and/or expertise at different centers to conduct collaborative synergistic studies.
- 3.) A third opportunity for Cross Center Projects will occur naturally in instances when investigators who are part of our BETRNet interact with colleagues at their own institution who are part of a different BETRNet but have a different focus than ours.

Investigators who anticipate developing a Cross-Center project must submit a one-page concept sheet to PIs at each potentially involved site to: (1) determine availability of resources and potential interest, and (2) obtain an agreement from the respective PIs that the proposal, if awarded, will be supported at each site.

### **Guidelines for Preparing a Full Written Proposal**

Pilot Project applications must conform to the following guidelines. Failure to do so will result in proposals being rejected without review.

1. Cover Page listing contact information for PI & Faculty Collaborators.
2. Proposal (5 pages in length – excluding references) as follows:
  - a. Specific Aims (1 page)
  - b. Background & Significance (1-2 pages)
  - c. Experimental Design (2-3 pages)
3. NIH-style biosketches for all faculty participants
4. Detailed budget/justification
5. Letter of Support from Department Head
  - a. Cross-center proposals also require letters of support from each local BETRNet site PI to ensure willingness to cooperate and that each investigator has sufficient protected research time/facilities to conduct the proposed research.

### **Allowable Costs**

A maximum of \$40,000 may be requested in direct costs for one year, and may be used for the following:

- Research Supplies
- Equipment less than \$5,000
- Salary support for post-doctoral or technical personnel

Pilot project funds may **not** be used for the following: faculty salary support, travel, journal subscriptions, society memberships, or renovations.

No indirect costs will be transferred to other departments/schools/institutions outside of CWRU School of Medicine. These cost plans will be applied to both within center and cross-center pilot projects. Final administration of cross-projects will be determined by BETRNet steering committee.

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2018 at 11:59 PM**

### **Award Conditions & Reporting**

The budgetary period for this award will be 05/01/18 – 04/30/19.

The pilot projects will be monitored at several levels:

- Quarterly Operational Progress Reports
- Semiannual Research Progress Reports presented at BETRNet seminars
- Annual Written Scientific Reports
- BETRNet Steering Committee and Advisory Board will monitor research progress and where appropriate, assist with conversion to independent research grant application

The following expectations are held for all awardees:

- Establishment of co-investigators/collaborators to promote transdisciplinary collaboration and overall translational outcome
- Prompt IRB and/or IACUC application and approval
- Prompt initiation of research project
- Quarterly operational status reports to BETRNet Steering Committee
- Timely reporting
- Use of BETRNet and Cancer Center Core Facilities where appropriate
- Review of Data by BETRNet Bioinformatics Core before presentation or publication
- Acknowledge support by Cancer Center and TRC-F in all publications and presentations
- Presentations at BETRNet Meetings
- Compliance with BETRNet Data Sharing and Publication Policies

### **For Additional Information**

Contact:

[BETRNetAdmin@case.edu](mailto:BETRNetAdmin@case.edu)

216-368-1674