



INNOVATIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, & EXPLORATORY AWARDS (IDEA) LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) INSTRUCTIONS:

Deadline 1: Letter of Intent (Required): the deadline is Wednesday, **October 25, 2011**. You must upload the **Project Summary** and **PI Biosketch** to proposalCENTRAL. If an invitation to submit a full application is issued, you will be notified in December, 2010, and given access to the remaining application forms.

Deadline 2: Application submission: the deadline for the electronic submission of the complete application is Wednesday, **February 15, 2012** (12 noon Pacific Standard Time = 3 pm Eastern Standard Time as shown on proposalCENTRAL's Web site).

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Overview

The Program: If you have not already reviewed our program's background, funding philosophy, or existing portfolio, then please consider doing so by visiting our website (www.cabreastcancer.org). The CBCRP's mission is to eliminate breast cancer by leading innovation in research, communication, and collaboration in the California scientific and lay communities. We are interested in funding novel topics and we are deeply committed to advocate involvement in all aspects of our portfolio and our program.

This Award: The CBCRP offers the IDEA to encourage researchers to pursue new, innovative projects specific to breast cancer and to think beyond the incremental advances that are typical of most grant applications. Thus, we wish to inspire research that, although untested, may reveal **breakthroughs or new avenues of investigation**. For this purpose we define "innovative" as:

- Applying **novel methods and approaches** to breast cancer research.
- Challenging existing paradigms or developing **new paradigms**.
- Considering an existing problem from **a new perspective**.

In addition, we **encourage new investigators** to initiate their own innovative projects and researchers new to breast cancer to **enter the breast cancer field**.

The intent of the IDEA is to support speculative, exploratory, “high-risk/high-reward” projects with a primary focus on breast cancer. Applications for this award type should either: (i) challenge existing paradigms, or (ii) encourage innovation by the incorporation of techniques, approaches, and collaborations not yet well represented in mainstream breast cancer research. We encourage researchers to attempt breakthroughs that, if successful, could be leveraged into more substantial funding. Preliminary data in breast cancer is not required for an IDEA application, but we encourage PIs to include sufficient data (obtained in their laboratory or research group) to demonstrate feasibility for the proposed research. It is not an absolute requirement for an IDEA project to be hypothesis-driven, and we consider correlative and data-gathering projects to be responsive to this award type. However, **to be maximally responsive to the IDEA funding mechanism the applicant must either be previously trained and have published in breast cancer or collaborate with an established breast cancer researcher**. The Program and peer review committees will consider applications from researchers outside of breast cancer who propose novel research, but we require them to establish breast cancer relevance as the primary aim and to describe the “critical path” that links their research to breast cancer.

Examples of research that are **not responsive** to the IDEA are projects that: (1) propose incremental advances for the underlying topic, (2) duplicate the aims of completed or funded research to the PI derived from non-breast cancer studies without incorporating detailed breast cancer-specific justification, (3) overlap in topic and aims with current grant support to the applicant, or (4) represent portions of existing grants or are derived from cut-down larger, R01-type projects.

The CBCRP believes that research projects benefit by being directly informed by the experiences and knowledge of patient-survivors. Therefore, we expect breast cancer and community health advocates to be actively involved in the research we fund. Applicants are expected to work with advocates and advocacy organizations and LOIs/applications are evaluated on the extent to which advocates are involved in the project.

CBCRP staff can assist you with meeting this requirement.

Note: Basic science applicants should emphasize the breast cancer-specific elements of the proposed research.

Letter of Intent (LOI) Instructions and Content

LOI Content

Two separate CBCRP templates must be uploaded to complete the LOI:

1. Project Summary (2-page maximum length) must include the following categories and discussion points:

- **Project title**
- **Project summary** (1-2 sentences) – in no more than two sentences provide an overview of the topic being studied and its specific connection to breast cancer.
- **Innovative elements** (10-20 sentences)– describe the project’s innovative qualities (paradigms being challenged, new concepts being tested, novel topics brought to bear on breast cancer, application of new research tools, or a high risk-high reward approach that will allow a breakthrough in knowledge specific to breast cancer). What innovative strategy will be employed to overcome barriers to success?
- **Specific aims**– list the proposed aims of the project.
- **Critical path** (10-20 sentences)– describe the (need) for the project specific to breast cancer, previous work on the topic, and what additional work would be required to achieve practical application at either the patient (risk reduction/prevention or treatment) or community level?
- **Investigative team** (4-6 sentences)– describe the PI’s background and qualifications specific to breast cancer, the topic being studied, or collaborations planned to support the research project.
- **Involvement of advocates** (4-6 sentences)– Describe the role of advocates in the project design and implementation, and include any specific advocate involvement in past and current research by the applicant. It is expected that the PI will be in contact with an appropriate advocacy group and be prepared to include them in the planning phase prior to submission of the full application.

2. PI Biosketch (4-page maximum) should include a list of recent/relevant publications and current other grant support. Identify any existing grants on the proposed research topic, and discuss any overlap issues. You may use either the CBCRP template or the corresponding NIH form.

LOI Evaluation

LOIs will be evaluated by CBCRP Council on the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** The degree of innovative aspects of the proposed project. Is the project distinct from incremental (R01-type) research? Does it challenge paradigms? Does it propose and test novel concepts? Is it high risk with potential high reward? Are innovative techniques or strategies employed?
- **Critical Path:** Is the path to implementation of something of practical value at the patient (risk reduction/prevention or treatment) or community level clear and well-described?
- **Aims and specificity to breast cancer:** Are the aims consistent with an IDEA-level project. Are the aims specific to breast cancer?
- **Investigative team:** Does the PI have demonstrated expertise in breast cancer research, or are collaborations proposed to address this issue? Does the PI have other grant support in the topic/aims of the project?
- **Involvement of advocates.** To what degree are advocates involved in the conceptualization, design, implementation and interpretation of the project?

Invitations to submit full grant applications will be communicated to PIs by **December, 2011**. You will receive an e-mail from proposalCENTRAL customer support. Once the invitation to submit has been issued, you will have access to the full set of application forms and instructions.

There will be no feedback or evaluation summary provided to PIs either invited or not invited to submit an application.

IDEA Full Application

IDEAs are open to **both established and new investigators**. The purpose of making IDEAs available to new investigators is to allow them to initiate their own innovative research projects. To qualify as a new investigator, the PI should be at a career level **on the submission date** past postdoctoral fellowship (or equivalent) and less than three years as an independent investigator (e.g., Assistant Professor or equivalent). This category is not intended for career development. If the applicant is working in a common facility or research group and under the direction of a senior researcher, then the proposed research must be distinct from the grant support to the supervisor. Thus, the application cannot contain duplicate aims or overlap with the supervisor's other grant support.

Duration/Budget

The **maximum duration is 1.5 years and the direct costs budget cap is \$100,000 or \$150,000** (projects using animal or human subjects). Use the following guidelines for placing your project into the appropriate IDEA award cap category:

Higher cap: \$150,000 (animal or human subjects) for studies where the use of human or vertebrate subjects is integral to the specific aims of the project.

Specifically:

- Human subjects studies, surveys, and data acquisition requiring institutional IRB-approval and an informed consent form (projects declared as "exempt" from IRB approval do not qualify for this) .
- Use of vertebrate subjects and experiments that require an institutional animal assurance approval. This would include animal tumor and metastasis models, 'knock-out mice', and studies where tumor growth/metastasis is inhibited by novel therapies.

Lower cap: \$100,000 for studies not using animal or human subjects and for those using animal and human subjects as follows:

- Vertebrate subjects used in a minor portion of the project, such as generation of antibodies.
- Using existing data sources, such as patient and cancer databases.
- Use of archival breast cancer material, such as ATCC-type cell lines or stored tumor materials, generally under the 'exempt' categories of IRB approval.

Full indirect (F&A) costs are allowed for IDEAs only to non-UC institutions. The **minimum PI effort must be at least 5% FTE**.