

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

### 2020 Investigator Award in Cell and Gene Therapy for Cancer RESEARCH GRANT

Abstract Deadline: December 3, 2019 at 11 am (EST) (Step1)

Invitation to Submit Application: January 17, 2020

Deadline for Completed Application: February 14, 2020 at 11 am (EST) (Step2)

Finalists Selected: March 2020

Award: April 2020

Date of Issue: November 8, 2019

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### PURPOSE

Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy, Inc. (ACGT) funds research aimed at furthering the development of cell and gene therapy approaches to the treatment of cancer.

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This award is for those conducting cell and gene therapy research in solid tumors with preference given to those researching new approaches to **glioblastoma** and **pancreatic cancers** including, but not limited to, following areas:

- Identification of new molecular targets for solid tumors, including neo-antigens as immunotherapeutic targets, specifically in pancreatic cancer and glioblastoma.
- Enhancement of dendritic cell functions, including antigen presentation and T cell activation, to generate more effective anti-tumor immune responses.
- Manipulation of the tumor microenvironment to augment and sustain anti-tumor immunity.
- Activation of innate immune responses against cancer, including investigating the therapeutic potential of Natural Killer (NK) cells in low-antigen expressing or MHC-deficient tumors.
- Potentiation of oncolytic virotherapy approaches in solid tumors, especially exploiting their potential to convert “cold tumors” into “hot tumors”.
- Development of novel gene delivery systems and oncolytic agents with potential for therapeutic efficacy in vivo and clinical translation.
- Exploration of microRNAs as therapeutic agents.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the **ACGT 2020 Investigator Award in Cell and Gene Therapy for Cancer** must hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree and must be tenure-track or tenured faculty. ACGT recognizes that there may be other excellent researchers not on a tenure-track, or not at medical schools or research centers, **but this is an eligibility requirement for application**. The investigator must be conducting original research as an independent faculty member. ACGT has no citizenship restrictions, and research supported by the award must be conducted at academic medical centers or research centers located in the United States or Canada.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The award provides up to a maximum of \$500,000 distributed over 2-3 years, inclusive of a maximum of 10% indirect costs. The funds may be used at the recipient’s discretion for salary, technical assistance, supplies, animals or capital equipment, but may not support staff who are not directly related to the project, e.g. secretaries or administrative assistants. Purchase of equipment is not allowed in the final

year of the grant. Continued support is contingent upon submission and approval of a non-competitive renewal application each year.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

There is a two-step process for submitting applications electronically via proposalCENTRAL, an outside service provider hosted by Altum. Access is available directly through the proposalCENTRAL website at: <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/Login.asp>.

A candidate must submit the following by the required deadlines:

- **Step I:** A pre-application Letter of Intent (LOI) that includes an abstract of the proposed research and a current biographical sketch must be submitted by the deadline (December 3rd, 2019) through the proposalCENTRAL platform. The LOI/abstracts will then be reviewed by the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council and its approved reviewers. Those selected will be invited by January 17th to submit full applications.
- **Step II:** For those invited to submit full applications, a completed electronic application, including templates and a Signed Administrative and Signature Page(s) scanned and attached to the front of the completed application template, must be submitted by the deadline (February 14, 2020 at 11 am (EST)) through the proposalCENTRAL platform.

**NOTE: A paper copy submission is NOT required.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Instructions for completing the application are available at ACGT's website under Research Grants and also through the proposalCENTRAL website.

### **CUSTOMER SUPPORT**

If you have any questions regarding the online application, please contact proposalCENTRAL Customer Support by e-mail at [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) or at (800) 875-2562 x 227 (toll-free) or (301) 916-4557 x 227.

### **REVIEW PROCESS**

Each applicant's LOI/abstract of the proposed project is reviewed by members of the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council and its approved reviewers. All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scientific and technical merit and a corresponding fit with the research objectives of the grant. Based on the review of the LOI/abstracts, certain applicants will be invited to submit a full application for consideration. These applications are then peer reviewed by two - three experts in the field, with the highest scores determining the pool of finalists from which the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council and its approved reviewers makes its final recommendations to ACGT's Board of Directors for approval.

Finalists will be invited to present their proposals to a panel of experts, including ACGT Scientific Advisory Council members in a live "Research Challenge" event during the **ACGT 2020 Cancer Summit in New York, April 15-16, 2020**. The announcement of the award will be made during the Summit and presented at the Awards Gala Dinner.

### **INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

Grant funds will be disbursed following execution of a grant agreement between the grantee institution and ACGT. The following items will be covered in ACGT grant agreements with grantee institutions:

- Overhead of up to 10% is included in the awarded amount. The **2020 Investigator Award in Cell and Gene Therapy for Cancer** research grant will support research projects with two to three-year time frames for completion, with annual non-competitive renewal applications.

- Grantees and their affiliated institutions are required to submit periodic progress reports to ACGT. In addition, they are expected to share their research findings with the scientific community in a timely fashion through presentation at professional meetings and publication in scientific journals.
- ACGT will request acknowledgment of the grant in any presentations and/or publications by the investigators and/or institutions.
- ACGT will receive a reasonable royalty return, including license fees on inventions and improvements made by investigators on research supported by its grants.
- The grantee institution will agree (i) to indemnify ACGT solely with respect to claims relating to the award of a grant and (ii) that all research supported by ACGT will be conducted in accordance with all applicable state and Federal laws, rules and regulations.
- Awards to an institution will terminate when the principal investigator departs from the grantee institution and can be re-initiated at an alternate institution subject to ACGT approval.
- Should grantees and/or their affiliated institutions fail to meet policies, procedures and/or ongoing requirements of the grant, ACGT reserves the right to rescind annual follow-on grant awards.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GRANTEE INSTITUTION**

An application for a grant must bear the signature of an official authorized to sign for the institution, **acknowledging the above policies.**

#### **PROGRAM INQUIRIES**

For application information, policies and procedures, and general information, please contact Barbara Lavery, Chief Program Officer, [blavery@acgtfoundation.org](mailto:blavery@acgtfoundation.org).