

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA) FOR CANCER RESEARCH IN THE CARIBBEAN

Part I. Overview Information

Participating Organizations: Center for Global Health
The National Cancer Institute
The National Institutes of Health
Rockville, MD USA 20850

The Caribbean Public Health Agency
16-18 Jamaica Blvd.
Federation Park, Port-of-Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

Funding Opportunity Title: Awards for Cancer Research in the Caribbean

Funding Opportunity Purpose: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is a co-funding opportunity between the Center for Global Health (CGH) of the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). This goal of this FOA is to support awards to Caribbean investigators for cancer research in the Caribbean.

Key Dates

Posted Date: October 17, 2014

Application Due Date: December 1, 2014

Scientific Review: January 31, 2015

Final Decision and disbursement of funds: January 31, 2015

Part II. Full text Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is a co-funding opportunity between the Center for Global Health (CGH) of the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). This goal of this FOA is to support awards to Caribbean investigators for cancer research in the Caribbean.

Background

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the Caribbean and has become an increasingly important challenge to health services, which may continue in the coming decades. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects that over the next few decades, cancer incidence and mortality will increase from 90, 801 cases and 53, 195 deaths in 2012 to 150, 870 cases and 94, 034 deaths in 2035. Prostate, lung, colorectal and stomach cancers are the highest in cancer incidence and mortality among Caribbean men, whereas breast, lung, colorectal and cervical cancers are the highest in cancer incidence and mortality among Caribbean women. Cancers related to lifestyle or environmental factors such as reproductive behaviors, dietary patterns and obesity, tobacco use are higher in cancer incidence and mortality. However, cancer related to infectious agents, such as cervical, liver and gastric cancers, still carry a significant burden throughout the region.

Prevalence of risk factors for cancer is relevant high among the Caribbean population. Overweight and obesity are highly prevalent among Caribbean adults and many of the Caribbean islands have noted an increase in the prevalence of obese adults over the last decade. In addition, obesity among children in the Caribbean has also increased. Tobacco use varies among the Caribbean nations, but can be relatively high in some islands. In addition, tobacco use among the Caribbean adolescent population is gradually increasing.

The diversity of race and ethnic groups within the Caribbean has resulted in customs and traditions that have marked the socio-cultural development of the region. Cultural, ethnic/race and religious factors among US populations have been shown to contribute to increases and/or decreases in cancer risk and the same may hold true for the Caribbean. In addition, the Caribbean region consists of a wide variety of environments that contribute to the differences in prevalence of infectious agents and chemical pollutants that may be associated with cancer risks.

The Caribbean region presents research opportunities that are locally relevant to the region and that could address the contribution of social, environmental and biological factors (and their subsequent interactions) to cancer etiology, course and outcome. Research of such nature will not only address knowledge gaps, but will be required for informed and effective

cancer control policies/programs that could eventually be integrated into the existing clinical and public health system

Objective of FOA:

The objective of this FOA is to support research of cancers that are of a significant burden within a population or community, in a Caribbean country, or throughout the Caribbean. In the proposal, the PI must describe how the cancer conveys a significant burden in their study population and explain how the research will lay the groundwork to allow an intervention to reduce the burden or evaluate an intervention. Research that identifies the causes of cancer, evaluates prevention and control measures, and informs the translation of existing and newly acquired knowledge on causes of cancer into feasible and effective actions will be encouraged.

Original research that creates new knowledge and bridges existing gaps in etiology, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship as well as cancer health disparities in relation to race, SES, religious background and gender inequality will also be encouraged. PIs will be required to submit a proposal on their project that describes background, overall goal of the project, specific aims, methods and impact of the research on public health. It is intended that these awards will support and advance promising career researchers who perform cancer research.

Recipients of the awards will be encouraged to form a research network with the goal of exchanging information on research progress and best methodology practices/protocols. Awards will be made to Caribbean investigators (see definition in eligibility criteria).

Section II. Award Information

The NCI and CARPHA have committed \$300K to support six awards, at \$25K per year over two years for each award (total \$50K for two years). Application budgets need to reflect actual needs of the proposed project and are not expected to exceed \$25K per year. The proposed project must not exceed 2 years. Budget may also include travel expenses for one meeting (not to exceed \$2K/year).

Section III. Eligible Organizations

Awards will be made to Caribbean investigators - that is, researchers who are Caribbean nationals or residents and who intend to conduct the proposed research in the Caribbean.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

Title of Proposal (maximum of 250 characters)

Abstract (maximum of 100 words)

Roles and Responsibilities of Applicants and Indication of Experience/Qualification

Explain the areas of responsibilities that members of the research team will have in executing the project. Indicate the relevant experience/qualification of the team to conduct the proposed research. (If necessary, you can submit short CVs).

Literature Pertinent to the Proposal (2 pages)

Include a review of relevant published work; identify gaps, work leading up to the study; results of previous research and pilot studies, if applicable

Aim & Objectives (1 Page)

State the research question(s), overall aim of the proposed study and list the specific objectives that will be investigated.

Methodology (2 pages)

List each objective and explain in detail the methods that will be used to achieve the stated outcomes. Reference should be made to established methods. Provide details of study design; measurements; data collection methods; sampling methodology; sample size calculation; and plan for data analysis

Milestones and Work Plan (1 page)

Use Gantt chart or Log frame matrix to relate project outcomes to the stated objectives and the expected time required for completion.

Impact and Significance of the Work to Health Policy/Programs/Practice (0.5 Page)

Indicate how the research findings would contribute to development of health policies, programmes or practice

Knowledge Translation/Transfer Related Activities (0.5 Page)

Include plans for dissemination of findings, the target audience and potential users

Budget

The budget should be detailed and justified.

References (1 Page)**Declaration**

To be signed by both the Principal Investigator and the Head of the Institution on Institution Letterhead

Principal Investigator

- I understand that this application will be peer reviewed;
- I understand the reporting requirements required (annual progress reports and a final report that includes an abstract/executive summary);

- The information contained in this application is correct.

Head of Institution

- I confirm that the space and facilities are available to the participating researchers to carry out the proposed research;
- The information contained in this application is correct

Section V. Application Review Information

A. Criteria:

The following review criteria will be considered for all applications:

Qualifications and Experience

Necessary qualifications and experience to conduct the proposed research and achieve its stated objectives i.e. Individual/Team's competency to execute the research; adequate facilities/infrastructure; clearly defined roles and responsibilities

Rationale

Demonstrated rationale for pursuing research into indicated topic – must be clearly stated in context of present knowledge

Objectives

Clear, realistic and measurable objectives, which can be achieved within the approved timeframe, with the resources available. Should include clearly stated research questions, SMART objectives

Study Design/Plan

A clearly defined plan for conducting the research including alignment of methods and study objectives, logical and robust methods, an appropriate data management and analysis plan, and realistic timeline/milestones

Risks

Potential risks to the successful completion of the project are identified and measures to minimise or eliminate the risks are proposed. This is especially related to the involvement of human participants and should include the identification of risks and methods to minimize risk as well as the identification and management of other ethical issues. Inclusion/exclusion criteria should be justified.

Potential Impact

Contribution to health policy development and/or implementation and programs or practices. That is, the research should address relevant health problems, contribute new knowledge in the subject area and contributes innovative and creative health risk reduction and response solution.

Budget

It must be realistic and justified with adequate details.

B. *Review and Selection Process:*

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Review Group(s) convened by the CARPHA and the NCI using the stated review criteria. As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will receive a written critique.

Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this FOA. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the appropriate advisory committee. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.

C. *Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates:*

Announcement Date: October 17, 2014
Due Date of proposals: December 1, 2014
Award Date: January 31, 2015

Section VI. Award Administration Information

Awardees are required to sign an MOU.

They also must submit a 1-year progress as well as a final report (both scientific and financial).

Awardees are expected to submit their research findings for presentation at the Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference. Which year?

Section VII. Contact Information

For more information on this FOA, please contact:

Primary contact:

Donald Simeon, PhD
Director of Research, Training and Policy Development
Caribbean Public Health Agency
16-18 Jamaica Blvd
Federation Park, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
simeondo@carpha.org

Additional contact:

Damali Martin, PhD, MPH

Program Director, Host Susceptibility Factors Branch

Global Health Coordinator, Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program

Adjunct Program Advisor, Center for Global Health

National Cancer Institute

National Institutes of Health

9609 Medical Center Drive

Rockville, MD 20850

240-276-6746

martinda@mail.nih.gov