

Request for Proposals:

The Role of Intraoperative Margin Assessment in Sarcoma Resection

The Executor of the estate of Nancy Lee Katz, Michael S. Sachs, has allocated \$150,000 USD to the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) to be distributed as operating grant funding in support of research that addresses the role of intraoperative margin assessment in patients who are undergoing resection of soft tissue sarcoma.

This funding will support a project that uses retrospectively and/or prospectively collected data to investigate the role of intraoperative margin assessment during sarcoma resection. Data may be derived from multiple institutions, and international collaborative proposals are encouraged. Compliance with REB requirements and Data Transfer Agreements at participating institutions is necessary. The projected timelines of the research should be such that the project will be completed within two calendar years of receipt of funding.

Proposals can be submitted regarding margin assessment for any type of soft tissue sarcoma, but the donor is most interested in supporting research in undifferentiated/unclassified pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS), so proposals that focus on UPS are particularly encouraged.

Eligible lead principal investigators (PIs) must be on faculty at a University or Academic Medical Centre from any country. Investigators at the following institutions may not apply for this opportunity because these institutions received funding for the 2020 CTOS Basic Science Research Award from the estate of Nancy Lee Katz: Duke University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute, and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory-European Bioinformatics Institute.

Letters of Intent (LOI) to apply are due on April 10, 2021 at 5 PM ET. The LOI should be emailed to CTOS at ctos@ctos.org. Only one LOI is permitted per lead PI. The LOI should be sent as a single pdf that includes:

- Title of proposal
- Name of lead PI and their University or Academic Medical Center; email contact details
- NIH-style biosketch for lead PI (5 pages maximum)
- Names of collaborating investigators and their institutions
- Summary of proposal (250 words maximum)
- Specific Aims (maximum 20 lines, Arial 12 point font, 1 cm margins)

Letters of Intent will be screened by a committee of experienced sarcoma clinician-investigators, and named PIs will be notified by May 3, 2021 if they are invited to submit a full application. The full application will be due on June 15, 2021 at 5 PM ET. The full application should be emailed to CTOS at ctos@ctos.org. The full application should be sent as a single pdf that includes:

- Title of proposal*
- Name of lead PI and their University or Academic Medical Center; email contact details
- Names of collaborating investigators and their institutions*
- NIH-style biosketch for lead PI (5 pages maximum) and collaborating investigators (5 pages maximum) to highlight major research accomplishments in the field of sarcoma
- Summary of proposal (250 words maximum)
- Specific Aims* (maximum 1 page, Arial 12 point font, 1 cm margins)
- Research Plan (maximum 3 pages, Arial 12 point font, 1 cm margins) that demonstrates the availability of robust data regarding pathologic assessment and patient outcomes
- Budget and Budget justification. Each proposal may request between \$50,000 and \$150,000 USD, to be used over the course of two years. Requests for salary support for research staff are permissible. No more than 5% of the requested funds can be allocated to overhead (indirect costs).

*changes from LOI are permissible

Full applications will be reviewed by members of the CTOS Research Committee, chaired by Dr. David Kirsch. The committee will select the top scoring application(s) that meet the stipulated criteria. Lead PIs on applications that are selected for funding will be notified within 60 days of the deadline for submission of the full application. Recipients of this CTOS research grant funding must agree to present their work at 2023 Annual CTOS Meeting.