

Request for Applications for Basic Science Sarcoma Research

The Executor of the estate of Nancy Lee Katz, Michael S. Sachs is allocating \$1.5 million dollars to the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) for basic sarcoma research. This funding mechanism utilizes the United States National Institute of Health (NIH) definition of basic research: systematic study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the **fundamental** aspects of sarcoma without immediate specific clinical application. Proposals can be submitted for basic research in any type of sarcoma, but the donor is most interested in supporting basic research in undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS), so outstanding proposals focusing on UPS are particularly encouraged. This funding will support highly innovative proposals that have the potential to lead to novel insights into basic sarcoma biology from which transformational translational research can spring. Applications that propose incremental research will not be funded. High-risk proposals that may therefore not be considered by traditional funding agencies are encouraged. Clinical trials or components of clinical trials, such as correlative analysis of biospecimens from clinical trials, will not be supported by this funding mechanism.

Eligible principle investigators (PI) must be independent scientists (students and post-doctoral fellows are not eligible) at a University or Academic Medical Center from any country. Letters of intent to apply are due on January 15, 2020 by 5PM Eastern Standard Time. Please email the letter of intent to CTOS at ctos@ctos.org. The letter of intent should be sent as a single pdf that includes:

- Title of the proposal
- Name of the lead PI and his or her University or Academic Medical Center
- Summary of the PI CV (no more than 5 pages) that describes major research accomplishments and current research funding. The NIH Biosketch format is one acceptable format.
- Names of any other collaborating scientists and their institutions
- summary/abstract of 250 words or less
- Specific Aims (limited to 1 page with Arial 11 font with 0.5 inch margins)

A PI may submit up to two scientifically distinct letters of intent. Letters of intent will be screened by a committee of experienced sarcoma researchers and PIs will be notified by February 19, 2020 if they are invited to submit a full application, which will be due on April 29, 2020 by 5PM Eastern Standard Time. A PI may be invited to submit up to two scientifically distinct applications. Please email the application to CTOS at ctos@ctos.org. The full application should be sent as a single pdf that includes:

- Title of the proposal*
- Name of the lead PI and his or her University or Academic Medical Center
- Names of any other collaborating scientists and their institutions*
- Summary of the PI CV* (no more than 5 pages) and summary of the CV of any collaborating scientists (no more than 5 pages) that describes major research accomplishments and current research funding. The NIH Biosketch format is acceptable.

- summary/abstract* of 250 words or less
- Specific Aims* (limited to 1 page with Arial 11 font with 0.5 inch margins)
- Research Plan (limited to 6 pages with Arial 11 font 0.5 inch margins) that highlights the fundamental basic research question, innovation of the project, provides any preliminary data (not required), and proposed experiments
- Budget and Budget Justification. Each proposal may request between \$300,000 to \$1,500,000. Salary for PI and other investigators may be requested for the percent effort committed to this award, but this is limited according to the NIH salary cap of \$192,300 for 100% effort. No more than 5% of the requested funds can be allocated to overhead (indirect costs)
- Letters of Support (Optional)

*=Changes from the letter of intent are acceptable.

Full applications will be reviewed by a committee of experienced sarcoma researchers chaired by Dr. Lee Helman. The committee will select the PI(s) of the top scoring application(s) that meet the criteria for this call for applications within 60 days of the application deadline. CTOS anticipates making awards that total at least \$750,000 and up to \$1,500,000 during this application cycle. If the review committee judges that there are insufficient meritorious applications meeting the criteria for this award, then unallocated funds can be utilized in a second request for applications at the 2020 CTOS annual meeting. Recipients of this award must agree to present the results of the research at the 2020 Annual CTOS Meeting.