



Servier & Harvard University REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Submission Deadline: June 24, 2020

Harvard's Office of Technology Development (<http://otd.harvard.edu>) is pleased to announce the 2020 call for proposals under the strategic research alliance between **Harvard University** and **Servier**.

Servier and Harvard entered into a strategic research alliance in the fall of 2017, to support collaborative, PI-initiated projects aimed at developing innovative therapeutics in areas of clinical unmet need and mutual interest. Servier is an independent international pharmaceutical company governed by a non-profit foundation, committed to progress in five main therapeutic areas: cardiovascular diseases, metabolic diseases, oncology, neurodegenerative and immunoinflammatory diseases. Oncology has become a top priority and key focus of therapeutic research for Servier, as demonstrated by a robust oncology drug development pipeline spanning discovery to commercial stage and the commitment of 36% of Servier's research spending to this therapeutic area in 2019. For more information, please visit www.servier.com.

This 2020 RFP with Servier and Harvard University is seeking projects focused on **ONCOLOGY**.

FRAMEWORK AND FUNDING

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is seeking project proposals that couple Harvard's cutting-edge science with Servier's resources and expertise in drug development. Servier will provide meaningful funding, **anticipated to be \$500,000–\$750,000 (max.) per year for up to 3 years** (total costs), to support research projects in **ONCOLOGY** that may include, **but are not limited to:**

A. CANCER CELL TARGETING

▪ *Escape of cell death:*

- Deregulated signaling pathways contributing to aberrant survival of cancer cells
- Apoptosis regulation in alternative cell death pathways

- Apoptosis regulation indirectly linked to the BCL2 protein family
- ***Oncogenic drivers or synthetic lethality with specific oncogenic pathways***
- ***Target classes and modalities of interest:***
 - Kinases, epigenetic targets (readers, writers and erasers), regulators of protein stability (DUBs, E3 ligases or others), RNA-modifying proteins, epitranscriptomics and druggable protein-protein interactions
 - Amenable to small molecule modulators

B. IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY

- ***Primary resistance to checkpoints:***
 - Pathways and targets leading to immunosuppression
 - Cell subtypes (ex: Tregs, myeloid cells, fibroblasts)
- ***Target discovery projects based on in vivo CRISPR screening***
- ***Specific targets and modalities of interest:***
 - Immunoproteasome and aminopeptidases involved in peptide trimming
 - Amenable to antibody-based or small molecule modulators approaches
- ***Particular interest in pancreatic tumors and associated biology***

For any of these areas, the scope and stage of the research may include target identification, target validation, screening, hit to lead identification, and/or lead optimization.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should develop the proposal according to the format in **Appendix A**. Please contact us at otdalliances@harvard.edu to request a proposal template. Applicants can submit more than one proposal. The deadline for full proposal submission is **June 24, 2020**. *We recommend that you reach out to your OTD contact to discuss your idea for a proposal **before** preparing or submitting a proposal.*

REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION OF FINAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Harvard OTD and Servier will treat all communications and proposals as confidential. However, in order to prevent any potential conflicts of interest, Servier will first review a non-confidential executive summary of each proposal to determine if a full confidential proposal can be received by Servier. Servier and Harvard OTD will also provide feedback to applicants for the development of a full confidential proposal (*Appendix A*).

Servier will select the most promising full confidential proposals to proceed to the next stage of the application process, which will involve meetings (virtually if necessary) between the selected

proposal finalists and Servier’s R&D leadership. After Servier has met with the proposal finalists, Servier will select the final award recipients.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

Date	Action
May 4 - June 23, 2020	Harvard OTD works with Harvard faculty on development of non-confidential executive summaries and full confidential proposals
June 24, 2020	Deadline for the submission of full confidential proposals
July 28, 2020	Announcement of proposal finalists who will meet with Servier’s R&D leadership
September 14-18, 2020 (Final date to be confirmed)	Servier Super Day: Meetings between proposal finalists and Servier’s R&D leadership (virtually if necessary)
October 12, 2020	Announcement of final award recipients
December 1, 2020	Earliest possible start date of projects

ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS

Anyone with rights as a Principal Investigator, whose employer is Harvard University and who has an obligation to assign intellectual property rights to Harvard, is eligible to apply. Investigators with Harvard academic appointments but who are not employed by Harvard University are not eligible. Post-docs and research scientists who are interested in applying should discuss with their PI and apply jointly. Collaborations within Harvard University are highly encouraged, especially collaborative proposals with Principal Investigators at Harvard-affiliated hospitals and institutions. Please reach out to your contact within OTD or to otdalliances@harvard.edu to discuss projects that may involve collaborators with Harvard-affiliated hospitals or outside of Harvard University.

AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Project Team: A scientific Project Team will be established for each Project, which will include representatives from Servier and Harvard. The Project Teams will be led by designated project leaders from both Servier and Harvard and the Project Teams will meet on a regular basis to discuss project progress and results.

Publications: Publication of the research project results will not be restricted, although Principal Investigators will need to agree to and comply with a short pre-disclosure period for all research publications and presentations resulting from the funded work, to determine if any publications

inadvertently contain company confidential information or if the publications contain patentable subject matter that may be of interest.

Reporting Requirements: Progress reports will be required at regular intervals during the funding period, and a final report is due no later than 30 days of the end of the funding period. Each report should specifically address research results relative to each specific aim.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information on the program and the application process, please contact the Director of Business Development at OTD that supports you or contact us at otdalliances@harvard.edu.

Appendix A: Proposals /// **Proposal Submission Deadline: June 24, 2020**

Applicants are advised to work with OTD to develop their proposal. Please contact us at otdalliances@harvard.edu for a Microsoft Word version of the proposal template.

1. Cover Page

Servier will first review the non-confidential Cover Page of the proposal. Servier will then select which Confidential Research Plans (Section 1) will be reviewed based on the non-confidential Cover Page.

- i) Project title
- ii) Affiliation details of lead PI
- iii) Names and affiliation details of any collaborators
- iv) Total budget request (including indirect costs)
- v) Project term
- vi) Final deliverable
- vii) Non-confidential executive summary (250 words maximum)

2. Section 1: Confidential Research Plan

Section 1 should not exceed 5 pages (this limit does include figures but does not include references). Please do not include any structures of chemical matter in your proposal.

- i) Background and Significance
- ii) Specific Aims: For each aim, provide the rationale, high-level experimental plan, anticipated outcomes, major challenges and mitigation plan, and estimated timeline.
- iii) Key technical milestones, including a description of anticipated results and the final deliverable.
- iv) References

3. Section 2: Supporting Information

- i) NIH Biosketch for the Principal Investigator and key collaborators (5-page limit each)
- ii) Detailed Budget (total costs including direct and indirect)
- iii) Identify all prior, current, and pending sources of funding support to the PI's lab related to the proposed research project.
- iv) Supporting publications/manuscripts, provided as PDF files (maximum of 5)

Proposal submission: Proposals should be labeled "Confidential" and submitted as a single Microsoft Word file, with the exception of supporting publications, which should be provided as PDF files. Please submit proposals via e-mail to otdalliances@harvard.edu. Please include in the subject line the words "Servier RFP" and the PI's last name.