

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### RFA FOR PILOT PROJECTS AS PART OF A COLLABORATION PILOT & FEASIBILITY INITIATIVE OF THE NIDDK-SUPPORTED COOPERATIVE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN HEMATOLOGY (U54 CCEH)

#### **Background:**

NIDDK has funded 5 national centers as part of the CCEH program. These centers, which are located at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard, Yale, Indianapolis, Utah, and Seattle, are charged with the mission of supporting research in hematology, both locally and throughout the US. Each center provides to investigators core services to enrich research. A goal of the CCEH program is stimulation of collaborations and interactions between and among the centers, as well as collaborations with other institutions that lack a CCEH center.

As part of the CCEH program, funds are provided to each center for pilot projects. Pilot projects utilize the resources and services of centers, and are meant to support exciting and novel proposals, and bring new investigators into the hematology field.

NIDDK specifies that hematology research encompasses all aspects of "non-malignant" hematology. Projects that focus on oncogenesis or frank malignancy are not allowed. Projects that relate to "pre-malignant" hematology (such as myelodysplastic disease) are permissible.

#### **RFA:**

In this first year of the CCEH program, NIDDK has requested each center to solicit pilot grants that utilize services of the host institution (in this instance, Boston Children's Hospital) and services of one of the other centers. Each pilot project should request \$20K total, \$10K of services at each of the centers for year 1.

We ask that lab PIs inform trainees in their laboratories of this RFA. We are interested in having the widest possible distribution of this RFA to those who may have potential projects.

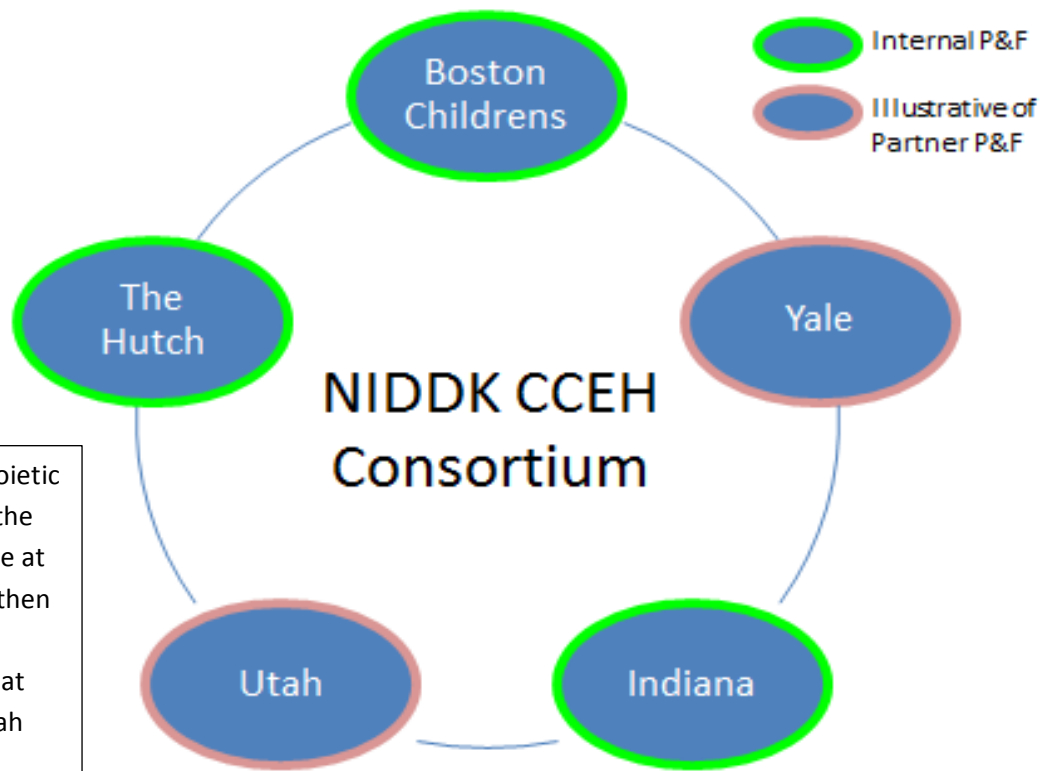
#### **Resources for preparation of the Pilot grant:**

Accompanying this RFA are the following: a formal RFA description from NIDDK, a brief description of the services at each center (with their respective web sites), and an application form. In addition, we request an NIH biosketch and support letter from the laboratory PI (for fellows). We recognize that it may be difficult to determine accurately what \$10K in services at each center may entail. For some centers, the costs are explicit. For others, it is less clear. For those proposals that are deemed competitive for support (by local host review), we will assist applications in discussions with other centers to obtain "sign off" on the approximate "value". *The highest priority at this time is to identify proposals for support*, and the details will be worked out in the process of review.

#### **Process:**

Up to 3 proposals from each center will be submitted to NIDDK for rapid review, and evaluation by an executive committee of the CCEH program. Each center is required to submit its pilot projects by November 18<sup>th</sup>. In order to allow for local review and discussion, **we have set a firm deadline for submission of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please submit application directly to stuart\_orkin@dfci.harvard.edu.**

Stuart H. Orkin, MD  
PI, CCEH at Boston Children's Hospital



Example: Hematopoietic cells are purified in the Cell Preparation Core at Yale University and then sent to the Metabolomics Core at the University of Utah for analysis.

## NIDDK Cooperative Centers of Excellence in Hematology Consortium

**Boston Children's Hospital**

Stu Orkin and Len Zon, MPIs

Mouse Embryonic Stem (ES) Cell and Gene Targeting Core  
 Zebrafish Core  
 FACS and Epigenetics Technology Core  
<http://zfrhmaps.tch.harvard.edu/cemh/>

**Indiana University-Purdue University**

Hal Broxmeyer and Eddy Srouf, MPI

Experimental Mouse Resources Core  
 Optical Microscopy Core  
 Angiogenesis Core  
 Flow Cytometry Core  
<http://www.ccehindy.org/>

**Yale University**

Diane Krause and Patrick Gallagher, MPIs

Cell Preparation and Analysis Core  
 Imaging Core  
 Animal Modeling Core  
<http://medicine.yale.edu/labmed/ycceh/>

**University of Utah**

John Phillips, PI

Iron and Heme Core  
 Mutation Generation and Detection Core  
 Metabolomics Core  
<http://cihd.cores.utah.edu/>

**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Beverly Torok-Storb and Shelly Heimfeld, MPIs**

Large scale Hematopoietic Cell Processing and Repository  
 Vector production  
 Gene editing  
 Clonal Tracking  
 Canine Resource Development  
 Specialized Mouse Services

## **NIDDK Cooperative Centers of Excellence in Hematology**

### **Opportunity for Partner Pilot and Feasibility Funds in Non-malignant Hematology Research**

#### **Due Dates**

Proposal Submission Deadline – Friday, November 18, 2016 by midnight local time

#### **Purpose**

The NIDDK Cooperative Centers of Excellence in Hematology form a consortium that enriches research and generates investigative resources that are available to the broader nonmalignant hematology research community. The consortium is made up of integrated teams of investigators from a wide range of disciplines, who share specialized equipment, and serve as a national resource.

The consortium provides a focus for multidisciplinary investigations into gene structure and function; the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the generation, maturation, and function of blood cells; and the development of strategies for the treatment of non-malignant hematologic diseases. The consortium supports Pilot and Feasibility projects that provide short-term access to the consortium's resources to conduct small projects aimed at generating preliminary data for inclusion in larger NIDDK Hematology grant applications.

#### **Who May Submit**

Faculty, Fellows and Post-doctoral trainees with appointments at one of the 5 funded NIDDK CCEH Centers are encouraged to submit proposals. Research will be conducted with assistance from your home institution's CCEH and one other CCEH within the consortium (the 'host' institution). The researcher's institution and the host institution will share responsibility for financial administration of the grant and for overall compliance with rules governing research conducted at each institution.

#### **When and Where to Submit**

*Submit completed, signed electronic copies of proposal, in one single PDF, by the end of the day **on November 18, 2016.***

#### **Special Considerations for Human Subjects, and Vertebrate Animals**

Please refer to section R220 (p. 31) of the Research Instructions for SF424 (R&R) form located here:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-d/research-forms-d.pdf>

#### **Selection Criteria**

##### **Proposal Review**

##### **A. Internal P&F**

Contact local P&F Coordinator for Review procedures

1. establish partnership with an outside Core
2. Each Center may submit up to 3 applications
3. Applications are collected by NIDDK and administratively reviewed with the help of academic peers
4. Criteria:
  - a. Scientific merit of proposal
  - b. Collaborative use of Host Core
  - c. Feasibility of proposed project
  - d. Commitment of both institutions
  - e. Qualifications of the applicant
  - f. Potential for longevity of collaboration
5. Funding decisions made in consultation with EEB

##### **B. Partner P&F**

1. Work with your local P&F Coordinator to

## **Funding**

Notification of funding outcome will be made by NIDDK. Decisions regarding funding are anticipated on or before January 2017.

## **Transmittal of Funds**

Indicate that \$10K is from the home (applicant) institution and \$10K is from the “Host” institution. NO FUNDS will be transferred between institutions, but rather, services/reagents will be provided “in kind”.

## **Guidelines for Preparation of Proposals**

### **Proposal (8-9 pages total):**

#### **All 7 components are required:**

Follow NIH guidelines for fonts and margins.

Signed electronic proposals must have pages numbered at the bottom. They may be single-spaced and shall be printed only on one side. The electronic copy of the proposal and all attachments should be sent in one (1) single PDF file.

1. Face Page with Applicant information (1 page)
2. Abstract (1 page; this page will be made publicly available if project is selected for funding.)
3. Budget (1 page)
4. Research Design and Methods (1 page)
5. Other Components (selected literature, explanation of HS and/or VA and signature) (1 page)
6. Biosketch (2-3 pages)
7. Letter of Support from the ‘host’ Center attesting to their willingness to contribute to the Partner P&F project AND that the resources requested can be provided for no more than \$10,000. Signature on letter required. (1 page)