PS-ON Trans-Network Project Submission Process

Physical Sciences-Oncology Network (PS-ON) Trans-Network projects are small research projects aimed at a question in cancer biology from a physical sciences perspective that could be addressed by leveraging the expertise and investigators from multiple PS-OP U01s and/or PS-OC U54s. Topics and formats for Trans-Network projects are to be defined by the teams of investigators and in the future may be defined by the PS-ON Steering Committee in order to foster a collective effort on a specific topic of interest. Investigators may propose a new or revised Trans-Network project one or more times per year, as determined by the PS-ON Steering Committee and NIH Staff. Typically, each PS-OC U54 has approximately $100K direct costs per year allocated for Trans-Network projects and each PS-OP U01 has approximately $25K direct costs per year.

Topics: Topics can be generated around any question in cancer biology or oncology that is addressed from a physical sciences perspective or approach.

Deadlines: Proposals can be submitted anytime, on a rolling basis. Strategically, it is best to submit proposals within a few months after the first year of award. For subsequent years, aim to submit proposals 6 weeks prior to the parent award budget period end date as indicated on the PS-ON grant Notice of Award. This timing will allow for the release of restricted Trans-Network funds with the subsequent Notice of Award.

Eligible Applicants: The Trans-Network team could be comprised of any investigator from a PS-OP U01 and/or PS-OC U54 partnering with at least one other PS-ON investigator that is involved in a separate PS-ON grant. The number of partners is not limited (i.e. there can be more than two). It is permitted to have a collaborating partner at the same institution, provided they are supported by a separate PS-ON award. Foreign (non-U.S.) components are allowed.

Budget: For each partnering institution, the requested budget must be within the annual budget indicated for the Trans-Network project in the PS-ON grant Notice of Award. The requested budget should reflect the needs of the project.

Award Project Period: Up to one year.

Renewals: It is permitted to request a renewal of a Trans-Network project for a second year. Projects must demonstrate sufficient progress to justify renewal. Renewal proposals must follow the same proposal submission process as new proposals.

Preparing the Draft Proposal: The Trans-Network team should prepare a 2-page research plan to describe the title, background, aims, and strategy for the proposed project. The 2-page limit does not include the references, budget, and team of investigators. Renewal proposals should include a 1-page progress update.

Draft Proposal Submission to NCI: The Trans-Network project draft proposal along with references, budget and brief description of the team of investigators should be sent via email to

nas.kuhn@nih.gov. Draft proposals will be circulated to the PS-ON Steering Committee via email.

PS-ON Steering Committee Presentation: Following submission of a written draft proposal, at least one of the PIs from the Trans-Network project team must describe the project plans to the PS-ON Steering Committee in a 10-minute slide presentation. The PS-ON Steering Committee meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday at 4-5 PM Eastern Time.

PS-ON Steering Committee Feedback: The PS-ON Steering Committee will be able to provide comments on the proposal to the PIs up to 5 PM Eastern on the Friday after the Steering Committee meeting. Currently the Steering Committee is not voting on Trans-Network projects; however, the process may change based on request by the Steering Committee or by NCI.

Final Proposal Submission to NCI: The final Trans-Network project proposal should be submitted separately by each participating institution with concurrence from the respective authorized organizational representative (AOR). Send the project proposal to nas.kuhn@nih.gov and the NCI Grants Management Specialist named on the PS-ON grant Notice of Award. The project proposal should consist of:
    (1) PHS 398 Form Page 1: Face Page signed by the institution official
    (2) PHS 398 Form Page 4: Detailed Budget pages
    (3) Project Description (2-page limit excluding references and team of investigators)

Approval and Funding: Final approval will be reflected in a revised PS-ON grant Notice of Award indicating that the restricted Trans-Network funds have been released.