Introduction

An estimated 25,000 new cases of primary brain tumors will be diagnosed in the United States in 2013, and an estimated 170,000 patients will be diagnosed with brain metastases, most often from lung cancer, breast cancer, and melanoma. Patients with primary malignant brain tumors and brain metastases often experience significant neurologic disability, impaired quality of life, and reduced survival. Recent advances such as image-guided surgery, brain mapping, chemotherapy, and stereotactic radiosurgery have improved the outcome from this disease. However, the relative 5-year survival rate following diagnosis of a primary malignant brain tumor is 33.8%, and the average survival of metastatic brain tumor patients remains at approximately six months. A better understanding of how and why primary tumors develop in the brain, and why cancers metastasize to the brain, will allow us to develop specific therapies to treat brain tumors, and possibly prevent their formation.

The UC Brain Tumor Center at the University of Cincinnati Neuroscience Institute announces its second Molecular Therapeutics Pilot Grant Program to accelerate basic and translational research of primary and metastatic brain tumors.

Successful applicants will receive:

- One of two available pilot grants: $50,000 per year for two years ($100,000 total)
- Access to the UC Brain Tumor Center patient database (IRB approval required)
- Access to the UC Cancer Institute brain tumor tissue bank (approval required)
- Guidance from UC Brain Tumor Center physicians to help translate laboratory discoveries to Phase I/II clinical trials

Grant Application Deadlines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter of intent due:</td>
<td>August 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitations for full proposal:</td>
<td>August 15, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full proposal due:</td>
<td>September 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation:</td>
<td>October 9, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award notification:</td>
<td>November 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding begins:</td>
<td>December 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Eligibility for Funding**

All UC faculty with 80% or greater FTE, including those based at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, are eligible to apply for funding.

Grant awardees will be expected to participate in the following UC Brain Tumor Center activities in order to maintain grant funding:

- Journal Club (monthly): 9 of 12 meetings per year
- Tumor Board (weekly): minimum of 4 conferences per year
- Translational Research Committee (quarterly): 3 of 4 meetings per year
- Brain Tumor Center fundraising events: minimum of 1 event per year

**Goals of the Pilot Grant Program**

- To facilitate and expand basic and translational research in primary and metastatic brain tumors
- To encourage entry of young investigators into brain tumor research
- To increase collaboration between scientists and clinicians
- To facilitate the translation of laboratory discoveries to Phase I/II clinical trials

All grants should have a strong scientific basis for development into NIH-funded programs following the conclusion of funding.

**Themes for the 2013/2014 Pilot Grant Program**

The Molecular Therapeutics Pilot Grant Program supports novel pilot research projects in the areas of molecular biology, cancer biology, tumor metabolism, and development of genetically engineered brain tumor animal models.

**Operation of the Pilot Grant Program**

The Molecular Therapeutics Pilot Grant Program will offer up to two grants of $100,000 ($50,000 per year for 2 years) for reimbursement of approved research project expenditures as costs are incurred. The budget for the second year will be granted after the approval of the first year’s progress report.

A one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) and NIH bio-sketch should be submitted to Angel Hall, Business Manager, UC Brain Tumor Center (Angel.Hall@UCHealth.com), by August 1, 2013 at
5:00 pm EST. The LOI should describe the problem to be addressed, its significance, and the approach that will be used to answer the proposed scientific question.

The Molecular Therapeutics Scientific Advisory Committee will select up to six applicants to submit a full proposal based on scientific merit and the potential for developing a strong basic or translational research program. Applicants will be notified on August 15, 2013.

The full proposal should be submitted to Angel Hall, Business Manager, UC Brain Tumor Center (Angel.Hall@UCHealth.com), by September 30, 2013 at 5:00 pm EST. Applicants will present their proposal to the Scientific Advisory Committee on October 9, 2013.

**Instructions for Submission of a Full Proposal**

Applications should be a maximum of five single-spaced pages (excluding references) in no less than 12-point font. The application should include the following:

- Specific Aims
- Background
- Preliminary Data
- Experimental Design

For investigators moving into new areas of research, the lack of preliminary data will not preclude funding. The investigator must demonstrate how their research can be applied to the problem of primary or metastatic brain tumors. The proposal should address the potential for future NIH funding. Supporting documents must include: itemized budget, budget justification, other support, and NIH bio-sketch.

**Budget**

Pilot grants will fund expenses directly related to research efforts but not faculty salary support, computers, travel, or indirect costs. Questions regarding allowable expenses should be directed to Angel Hall, Business Manager, UC Brain Tumor Center (Angel.Hall@UCHealth.com).

**Review of Proposals**

The Scientific Advisory Committee will review the proposals for scientific content, likelihood of leveraging the pilot grant into NIH funding, and achieving programmatic goals of the Molecular Therapeutics Program; namely, unique basic or translational research in the biology and treatment of primary and metastatic brain tumors. Special consideration will be given to proposals that demonstrate translational potential and robust collaborations between researchers.
and clinicians. Grant awards will be announced on November 1, 2013 and funding will begin on December 1, 2013.

**Progress Reports**

All investigators who receive funding will be expected to provide a detailed progress report eleven months after the start of funding. The progress report should indicate project status, challenges, remaining project timeline, and estimated costs for completion. The second year of funding will be granted by the Scientific Advisory Committee based on review of the progress report and the investigator’s participation in the UC Brain Tumor Center activities.

**Contact Information**

For any questions regarding the application process, please contact:

Angel Hall  
Business Manager  
UC Brain Tumor Center  
Angel.Hall@UCHealth.com  
Phone: (513) 558-8646  
Fax: (513) 558-8645

**COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION**

The following items must be submitted for an application to be considered complete and eligible for review:

**Title Page** (see below)

**Abstract** (see below)

**Project Narrative:**  
The Narrative is limited to a maximum of five typewritten pages of discussion, and one page of bibliography, using no less than 12-point font. All appropriate details and graphics must be included in the body of the application and no appendices will be accepted other than appropriate letters of support.

**Budget and Justification:**  
The budget must be itemized and a detailed budget justification must be included. Projects are limited to a maximum of $50,000 per year for two years ($100,000 total).
___ **Biographical sketch** of the applicant(s) current curriculum vitae or a PHS-398 bio-sketch ([http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.pdf](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.pdf)).

___ All **project investigators’ active and pending sources of research support** (use PHS-398 format)

___ Please submit electronic versions of this application to:

    Angel Hall  
    Business Manager  
    UC Brain Tumor Center  
    [Angel.Hall@UCHealth.com](mailto:Angel.Hall@UCHealth.com)  
    Phone: (513) 558-8646  
    Fax: (513) 558-8645
Project Title:

______________________________________________________________

Applicant Name: (last, first, middle)

______________________________________________________________

Position Title:                  Mailing Address:

______________________________________________________________

Department:

______________________________________________________________

Telephone / Fax Number:              Email Address:

______________________________________________________________

Performance Sites: (Organization & Address)   Human Subjects: Yes ___  No ___
                                          Animals: Yes ___  No ___

Total Budget Requested:

APPROVAL:
Department Chair (signature and date)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE
Applicant (signature and date)
Applicant Name:
_____________________________________________________________________

Title of Project:
_____________________________________________________________________

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED PROJECT
(Do not exceed this space)