

***Head & Neck Cancer Research Pilot Grant***

*Funded by*

*Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Foundation Research Fund*

*Administered by*

*UC Cancer Center*

***Important Deadlines***

**Call for Applications April 20, 2021**

**Deadline for Applications June 1, 2021**

**Awards announced and funds available by July 1, 2021**

**Introduction**

The Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Foundation was launched June 3, 2012 by Dr. Joseph & Karen Gromada, the day after their oldest son Brandon died of an aggressive “poorly differentiated squamous cell cancer”. Brandon was treated at UC Health Barrett Cancer Center. The goal of the Foundation is to generate research funds for the development of innovative and more effective treatments, which lead to cures for head and neck cancers - most of which are some type of squamous cell carcinoma. The Foundation envisions a day in the near future when effective cures are readily available for head and neck cancers, and those cures result in no or very mild side effects.

The Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Foundation Research Fund’s Pilot Grant will support an innovative and novel pilot research project in basic, translational, clinical and population-based research in head & neck cancer. Administered through the UC Cancer Center, it serves to facilitate research in head & neck cancer through interaction and collaboration of investigators and also to encourage the entry of new investigators into the field of head & neck cancer research. All types of basic or clinical research involving head and neck cancers will be considered. Priority will be given to those projects with the potential to lead to new clinical trials or to extramural funding, particularly those investigating “poorly differentiated” squamous cell carcinomas (SCC).

**Goals of the Pilot Grant**

The goals of the grant are to:

* Increase collaborative interaction to foster innovative head & neck cancer research
* Facilitate novel approaches in head & neck cancer research
* Encourage entry of new investigators into head & neck cancer research
* Facilitate the translation of laboratory findings into clinical interventions for head & neck cancer patients
* Possess a strong scientific basis for potential development into peer-reviewed extramural funding

**Award**

The Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Foundation Research Fund Pilot Grant will offer one grant up to $25,000. The grant will be awarded for a period of one year with the possibility of renewal contingent upon adequate progress and availability of funds.

**Eligibility**

All UC faculty and medical professionals are eligible to apply for funding. Clinical and postdoctoral research fellows, instructors and research associates are eligible to apply as co-investigators with their UC faculty advisor or mentor as the principal investigator (PI).

**Review of Applications**

Please submit a 6-page full application using the criteria below. Applicants will undergo rigorous peer-review by the UCCC Grant Selection Committee for final decision. Reviews will be scored in accordance with NIH grant review guidelines.

**Applications**

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

* **UCCC Coversheet** (Please see required template)
* **Abstract:** Explain why this work is important (not to exceed 250 words in Arial 11-point font)
* **Project Narrative:** The narrative is limited to a maximum of 6 typewritten pages (excluding references) in no less than Arial 11-point font. All text, tables and figures must be included in the body of the application and no appendices will be accepted other than appropriate letters of support. Included in the narrative should be background, hypothesis and specific aims, preliminary data (not mandatory), experimental design and a timeline of the study plan including submission to IRB and other appropriate review committees.
* **References**
* **Budget:** The budget should include only items needed to perform the project. PI’s salary, cellular devices, capital equipment, indirect costs or administrative services may not be included. Exceptions may be made if a proven need exists. Any purchase of electronics (i.e. computers, laptops, tablets, etc.) belong to the University and must be relinquished to the UCCC Grants Office at the closing of the grant or expiration of funding. Please see the UCCC Grants Policy for more information. Salary of postdoctoral fellow or research staff relative to the effort on the project may be included. Applicants may request up to $25,000 for one year. The budget should be submitted in PHS398 format: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.pdf>
* **Budget Justification:** The budget justification is a separate document from the budget and must itemize and explain all items directly related to the research project.
* **Biographical sketch** of the PI and Co-Investigators current curriculum vitae in PHS-398 format NOTE THE NEW BIOSKETCH REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE MAY 25, 2021 <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-073.html> Access the instructions and blank form here <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
* **Other Support:** All project investigator’s active and pending sources of research support.Access the new OTHER SUPPORT Document here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm>

For investigators moving into new, innovative areas of work, the absence of preliminary data will not preclude funding. The role of the presented project in leading toward successful extra-mural funding should be addressed. In addition, selected PIs will have an opportunity to present their study findings at a UCCC Center & Program Leadership Meeting. Please see the UCCC Grant Policy for details.

**Progress Report**

The investigators who receive funding will be expected to provide a detailed progress report every 6 months for the duration of funding and annually for up to 5 years post award so any subsequent funding and/or publications can be captured. Progress reports should include status of project and any abstracts, publications, or secondary funding generated from this award. The template required for each report will be provided to awardees. Timely submission of progress reports is required for the continuation of funding. Additional progress reports (written or in person) may be requested by the donor and will be coordinated with the investigator in advance.

**Discontinuation of Funding**

In the event the Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Foundation Research Fund Pilot Grant’s Principal Investigator (PI) leaves their respected institution or if no substantive progress has been made on the project within 12 months, the UCCC reserves the right to rescind the remaining grant money that is available to the PI. Review and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. In the instance funding is rescinded, the funds will be reinvested into the Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Research Pilot Grant Fund.

***Please submit electronic version of Application to the UCCC Grants Coordinator at*** ***UCCCgrants@uc.edu******.***