Washington University in St. Louis

Edward P. Evans Center for Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Developmental Research Program (DRP)

2023 Request for Applications (RFA)

A. Deadlines

Application due: **Friday, May 1, 2023 (by 5:00pm)**
Earliest possible start: **July 1, 2023**

B. Purpose

The goal the Edward P. Evans DRP is to support innovative clonal hematopoiesis and myelodysplastic syndrome research. The following topics are of specific interest for the Evans DRP: 1) Investigation of how environmental stresses, including inflammation, influence disease progression. 2) Cooperation of gene mutations for disease progression. 3) Novel immunotherapies for MDS. Please note that these are only suggestions. Proposed projects will be reviewed with the intent that they will develop sufficiently, within one-two years, to be submitted for external peer-reviewed funding. For projects, with a clinical trial, they must be ready for study activation within six months of the award.

C. Eligibility

All faculty members (instructor level or higher) are eligible. In addition, senior post-doctoral fellows who have a written commitment from their department chair indicating promotion to Instructor or Assistant Professor by the time of the award will be eligible. Preference will be given to junior faculty or established investigators with a new clonal hematopoiesis or myelodysplastic syndrome research focus.

D. Amount

At least one Edward P. Evans DRP will be awarded up to a maximum of **$70,000 (direct costs)** for a funding period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Selected projects may be considered for a second year of funding based on a competitive renewal.

E. Submission Guidelines

These are internal awards and are NOT submitted through the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS).

Full application: Combine all sections noted below into one PDF document and mail your submission by the deadline, **Monday, May 1, 2023, 5:00 pm**, to Linda Dioneda at dionedal@wustl.edu. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Required documents: Face page, Lay Summary, Budget, Budget Justification, NIH Biosketch, Other Support and Research Plan.
Please type your name (last name, first initial) in the header of each page. Use Arial 11 point font for all text and 0.5 inch margins.

1) **Face Page**
2) **Lay Summary:** Submissions will be reviewed by our patient advocate. Please provide a concise and informative summary (maximum 250 words).
3) **Budget & Justification:** Use continuation page as needed. (See allowable expenditures below)
4) **NIH Biosketch:** Please use NIH guidelines; biosketches are required for all key personnel.
5) **Other Support:** Please use NIH guidelines **(**Other Support includes all financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or institutional, available in direct support of an individual's research endeavors, including but not limited to research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards. Training awards, prizes, or gifts do not need to be included).
6) **Research Plan:** (6 page maximum. All tables and figures included in 6 page limit*). The following headings should be used.*
    a. *Specific Aims***:** State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the grant period. The aims must be reasonable to achieve during the one- year period of the grant.
    b. *Significance to clonal hematopoiesis or MDS Research***:** Discuss the potential impact of the proposed research to clonal hematopoiesis or MDS. Please specify if the project is translational or will lead to translational research opportunities.
    c. *Background and Preliminary Investigations***:** Discuss the pertinent research findings that have been described in the scientific literature and how this proposal will add to these results. Also discuss any preliminary data you have that is relevant to this proposal.
    d. *Experimental Design and Methods***:** Concisely present the experimental design and the methods to be used to accomplish the specific aims. Also, indicate how the results will be interpreted and how they will lead to future investigations. Well-known methods and standard procedures may be described very briefly or referenced, but novel experimental approaches should be outlined in detail.
    e. *Potential For Progression to Full Scale Translational Studies***:** Discuss plans to move this pilot project into a larger and explicitly translational or clinical research study.
    f. *Plans for Subsequent External Funding***:** Applications must include this section describing the Investigators' plans for future external funding, particularly for peer-reviewed funding.
7) **Appendix**
    a. References
    b. If applicant is a post-doctoral fellow, a letter of support is required from his/her Department Chair indicating their promotion to Instructor or Assistant Professor by the time of the award.
    c. If the project requires a sponsor, consultant or collaborator, this individual should write a letter of support for the application, including an explanation of how any overlap in effort will be reconciled if the project is funded.

Expenditures Allowed

- Salary support for the applicant as needed
- Research supplies and animal maintenance (including animal per diem charges)
- Per diem charges for patients if part of a clinical study not reimbursable by standard payment terms
- Technical assistance
- Publication costs, including reprints, study instruments, surveys, etc.
- Computational services
- Other expenses such as lab and core fees; pathology, imaging, etc.

Expenditures NOT Allowed

- Secretarial/administrative personnel salary support
- Office equipment and supplies
- Equipment
- Computer/equipment maintenance fees
- Tuition
- Indirect institutional costs
- Travel

F. Terms of the Award

- It is expected that the grantee will completely utilize the full amount of funding during the funding period of the award. No-cost extensions of one year may be granted with the approval of the DRP Review Committee. Requests must be made 30 days prior to the end of the funding period. All unspent funds at the end of the grant period (unless you have requested and been granted a no-cost extension) will be returned.
- IRB and IACUC approvals are not required at the time of submission. However, all awards must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals before funds will be allocated.
- A progress report is required to be submitted by May 1, 2024.

G. Review Process

All applications will be reviewed by members of the DRP Review Committee with the statistical review conducted by personnel in the Biostatistics Core (if needed) and scored for merit according to the following criteria. All applications will be evaluated by two reviewers and a biostatistician (if needed) and scored for scientific merit according to the following criteria (or as specified in the RFA):

- The overall quality of the science of the proposal.
- The degree to which the proposal is novel.
- The likelihood that it will result in translational research (a clinical application, etc.).
- The degree to which the project represents a new resource for studying clonal hematopoiesis or MDS.
- The possibility that the research would eventually lead to peer-reviewed funding, such as an R01, P01, R21 etc.
- The contribution of the project to the overall goals of the project to advance our understanding of the initiation and progression of clonal hematopoiesis and MDS, and identification of novel treatments for these diseases.
- For projects that include a clinical trial or the use of human tissue samples, a plan to ensure minority participation is encouraged.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Dioneda at dionedal@wustl.edu or 314-362-6152.