

Drug Repurposing Clinical Trials to Impact Blood Cancers

Description / Background

Proposals are submitted on the Cures Within Reach CureAccelerator online platform. Sign up as a Researcher or Clinician at <https://app.cureaccelerator.org/registration> or log into an existing CureAccelerator account at <https://app.cureaccelerator.org/home> to submit. **Additional Proposal submission instructions can be downloaded at this link:** <http://bit.ly/cwrclinicalrfp>.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) from [Cures Within Reach](#) (CWR) is seeking repurposed treatments to address unsolved blood cancers. We are interested in generic or proprietary drugs that could be repurposed to create "new" treatments to 1) reduce the symptoms, progression or incidence of; 2) restore function lost to; or 3) reduce or eliminate severe side effects of currently used therapies for any blood cancer, thereby improving patient outcomes and quality of life.

CWR is accepting budgets of up to \$75,000 for this RFP, which includes the required 20% Institutional Match (see Important Funding Information below).

Repurposed therapies must be approved and/or generally recognized as safe for human use by some regulatory agency, such as the US Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, Health Canada or Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency.

Our strongest preference is for proof of concept repurposing clinical research trials supported by strong preclinical evidence and / or clinical observations. We may also consider later stage clinical trials that require additional funding if our additional funding will help speed the patient impact of the clinical trial. Only interventional clinical trials lasting no more than 36 months that treat patients with a repurposed therapy are eligible for this funding.

Eligible clinical repurposing trials may also:

- Test combination therapies to increase their efficacy, including combining the current disease treatment with a repurposed treatment or combining multiple repurposed therapies
- Repurpose therapies approved for use in adults into pediatric indications, or vice versa

If you have a repurposing idea in any unsolved blood cancer that isn't an exact fit for this RFP, or if you have eligibility questions due to budget or other aspects, please contact Clare Thibodeaux, PhD at clare@cureswithinreach.org to discuss fit and/or submission options.

An unsolved blood cancer is one in which one or more of the following are true:

- There is currently no effective treatment
- The current treatment is only effective for a portion of the patient population

- There is a treatment that is effective, but many patients develop resistance to the therapy
- There is a treatment that is effective for the entire patient population, but the treatment is very expensive, and therefore some patients cannot get access to the treatment
- There is a treatment that is effective for the entire patient population with significant side effects, and for some patients the negative side effects outweigh the benefits of the treatment

Many of our successes in repurposing have come from researchers and clinicians who had ideas that could impact a disease that was outside their normal therapeutic or scientific area. Please submit your repurposing ideas, find colleagues to work with and circulate this RFP to others who you think might be able to submit repurposing research that could provide solutions for an unsolved disease.

Repurposing innovation, feasibility of the research plan, relevance to the patient population, potential clinical impact, “value” of the research and the research team are key ranking criteria for a successful proposal submission. Proposals for this RFP will be reviewed, scored and ranked by CWR’s external Grant Review Committee, and the top-rated proposal submissions will be invited to submit a full grant. Principal Investigators (PIs) will be contacted approximately 6-8 weeks following the proposal submission deadline with a decision.

CWR is interested in supporting both previously funded investigators and early-stage investigators and who have received little or no extramural research funding to date. PIs who have not received extramural funding previously and/or who do not currently have their own lab should include a Letter of Support from a funded, senior researcher who will act as a mentor for the proposed clinical trial and the investigator.

Important Funding Information:

Cures Within Reach will provide no more than 80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, and the institution or organization proposing the research will match at least 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. The REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING is equal to the ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN section of the proposal submission and includes the 20% Institutional Match. **The 20% Institutional Match must be real dollars committed to the project and can include Indirect Costs.** The Institutional Match may come from the Research Institution itself (including salaries, patient costs, etc.); from government or other public funders; from individuals, foundations or other private funders; from industry (including the dollar value of donated drug); or from any combination of these sources.

All funding amounts are in US dollars.

Funding Definitions:

- Project Funding = total research budget (no set maximum)
- Remaining Project Funding = funding needed to reach the total research budget; must be equal to the Requested Project Funding
- Existing Project Funding = Project Funding minus Remaining Project Funding (no set maximum)
- Requested Project Funding = total budget requested through this RFP (maximum = \$75,000, including the 20% Institutional Match)
- Budget Breakdown = breakdown of the Requested Project Funding (maximum total = \$75,000, including 20% Institutional Match)
- Estimated Overall Project Costs = Requested Project Funding (see above)

Up to 10% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING may be used for Direct Project Administration Costs. However, the total amount of Indirect Costs and Direct Project Administrative Costs combined may not be more than 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. No funds provided by CWR can be used for Indirect Costs.

CWR will accept REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts that are within the minimum and maximum amounts indicated. We do not set an upper limit to the PROJECT FUNDING, or the EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING, but REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts are limited to the maximum amount specified in the Funding Information section below. Proposals may be submitted for project for which the PROJECT FUNDING is within the CWR maximum, and for projects that already have EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING from another source and require REMAINING PROJECT FUNDING, when this additional funding from CWR will help speed patient impact.

CWR REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project. REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING from CWR cannot be the first funding raised for a project, unless the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, including the 20% Institutional Match, equals the PROJECT FUNDING.

Here are two examples of funding requests and disbursements to help investigators and institutions understand the funding opportunity.

Example A

The maximum budget request to CWR is \$75,000. The PI enters \$75,000 for REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and for ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN, which equals the PROJECT FUNDING. CWR approves this project and will provide \$60,000 (80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING), and the institution will match the remaining \$15,000 of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING.

Example B

The maximum budget request to CWR is \$75,000. The PI enters \$75,000 for REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and for ESTIMATED OVERALL PROJECT COSTS in the BUDGET BREAKDOWN, which will cover one-third of the \$225,000 entered for PROJECT FUNDING. The other \$150,000 is entered for EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING and has already been secured by the PI or institution. CWR approves this project and will provide \$60,000 (80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING), and the institution will match the remaining \$15,000 of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING and provide the \$150,000 of the EXISTING PROJECT FUNDING.

Diseases/Conditions

Any unsolved blood cancer

Treatments

Any repurposed drug

Project Type

- Human Clinical Trial
-

Timeline

Do you have a preference for where the research should take place?

This RFP is open to accredited academic, nonprofit and governmental research institutions and/or health systems significantly involved with medical research located anywhere in the world, where good scientific research and clinical practices can be assured. Although start-ups, biotechs, pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies are not eligible for this RFP, their collaborators at eligible institutions can apply. Contact Clare Thibodeaux, PhD at clare@cureswithinreach.org to learn more.

Do you have a preference for where you would like to see patient impact?

Our main focus is on repurposing research in any unsolved blood cancer. We are hopeful that any discovery would be useful anywhere in the world where the repurposed therapy is available.

Restrictions

There are no other restrictions other than those described above.

Other Information for Researchers

CWR primarily funds proof of concept clinical trials that help determine whether a repurposed therapy can have a direct and positive impact on patients. Sometimes the clinical trials in our portfolio are open label studies with clinical endpoints that compare to the natural history of the disease. Other clinical trials are randomized, blinded and controlled studies. We are open to all clinical trial designs that have the opportunity to create a robust and well-defined outcome that will show reproducible clinical impact.

CWR is also interested in supporting both previously funded investigators and early-stage investigators and who have received little or no extramural research funding to date. PIs who have not received extramural funding previously and/or who do not currently have their own lab should include a Letter of Support from a funded, senior researcher who will act as a mentor for the proposed clinical trial and the investigator.

Repurposing innovation, feasibility of the research plan, relevance to the patient population, potential clinical impact, “value” of the research for the funding and the research team are key ranking criteria for a successful proposal submission. Proposals for this RFP will be reviewed, scored and ranked by CWR’s external Grant Review Committee, and the top-rated proposal submissions will be invited to submit a full grant. Principal Investigators (PIs) will be contacted approximately 6-8 weeks following the proposal submission deadline with a decision.

While only clinical repurposing trial projects are eligible for this round of funding, we welcome proposals for any research stage / type, which may be considered for future funding opportunities. If you have a repurposing idea that isn’t an exact fit for this RFP, or if you have

eligibility questions due to budget or other aspects, please contact Clare Thibodeaux, PhD at clare@cureswithinreach.org to discuss fit and/or submission options.

Funding Available

Minimum \$50,000

Maximum \$75,000

Funding Description

See full funding information in the Research Description section above. CWR will accept REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING amounts that are within the minimum and maximum amounts indicated. CWR REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project, as indicated in the Research Description. CWR will provide no more than 80% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING, and the institution, organization or company proposing the research will match at least 20% of the REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING. The Institutional Match must be real dollars committed to the project and can include Indirect Costs. The Institutional Match can come from the Research Institution itself (including salaries, patient costs, etc.); from government or other public funders; from individuals, foundations or other private funders; from industry (including the dollar value of donated drug); or from any combination of these sources. All funding amounts are in US dollars.

Open to co-funding

Co-Funding Description

CWR is open to working with other funders who share our desire to address unsolved blood cancers and are interested in these near-term repurposing opportunities. We will accept projects that already have funding from another source and require additional funding, when this additional funding from CWR will help improve the chances of success of the project, and therefore increase the chance of patient impact. CWR REQUESTED PROJECT FUNDING must be sole, late or final funding for the project, as indicated in the Research Description.

Due Date for Project Proposal Summary Submissions

05-06-2022
