



2021 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Program

The Bridge Project, a collaboration between MIT's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (KI) and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) consortium, brings together the expertise of these two organizations to tackle complex translational problems in cancer research. We fund collaborative approaches in translational cancer research led by teams of engineers, cancer scientists, and clinical investigators from these institutions.

Eligibility

- Teams must be composed of at least one Principal Investigator (PI) from the KI (or MIT) and at least one PI from DF/HCC institutions: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Each PI must be a faculty member of their host institution and must meaningfully participate in the project as part of their team. Preference will be given to teams employing unique and highly innovative approaches and technologies.
- Teams may submit proposals focused on any aspect of translational cancer research in any tumor type. Preference will be given to projects addressing significant unmet clinical needs requiring improved or new methods for early detection, more accurate diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, and prevention. A subset of available funding will be awarded with preference for projects focused on drug discovery and development, brain cancer research and/or immunotherapy. We further encourage applications in the Expansion category of award types; such teams may have been funded previously via Traditional or Footbridge awards from the Bridge Project, but this is not required.

Award Types

Expansion Bridge Grant provides up to \$750,000 (total cost) per team, for 1 year to support the initiation of a clinical trial or a clinical application.

Traditional Bridge Grant provides \$400,000 (total cost) per team per year, for 2 years (\$800,000 total). Renewal at the end of the Year 1 is contingent upon satisfactory scientific review of progress.

Footbridge Grant provides \$200,000 (total cost) per team per year, for 1 year. Footbridge grants allow newly formed teams to strengthen future Bridge Project applications and obtain necessary preliminary data or proof of concept, while forming connections to become a "true" team.

Submission information

Submit applications to ki-bridge@mit.edu (and CC all the involved PIs) by **4 PM on September 17, 2021**.

Application Format

- All materials should be saved as a single PDF document
- Use 12-point Cambria or 11-point Arial font and margins of 0.5 inches or greater
- Required components (please follow this order):
 - o Cover Page, with following:
 - Title
 - PI information (names, affiliations, email addresses)
 - Type of award sought (Expansion, Traditional, or Footbridge)
 - o Lay Summary: a one-page description of your project, which may be shared with donors (must not contain confidential information)
 - o Research Proposal (not to exceed 5 pages including figures and tables):
 - Background and Significance
 - Specific Aims
 - Research Plan
 - o NIH Biosketch for each PI, include Part A (Personal Statement)
 - o Literature Citations

Scope

Research proposal should clearly articulate the following, in the context of translational potential:

- What is the primary unmet medical need you are addressing?
- What approaches do you intend to use and how are they novel?
- What are the anticipated experimental challenges?
- What are the short- and longer-term goals of the research?
- What can be reasonably accomplished within the funding period?
- Why is the KI/MIT- DF/HCC pairing critical and how will this be a true team?
- What clinically translatable applications might emerge from this work now or in the near future? (Clearly demonstrate a clinical connection.)

In-person presentations/ Round II Review

Teams that are selected for Round II Review will be notified by December 1, 2021 and invited to present their proposal in front of the Bridge Project Review Committee. If selected, your team **must be able to present as a group** on the date of the Round II Review (which will be announced by October 31, 2021) and send us your presentation file by 5 pm the day before.

Budgets are not needed at this stage.

Award Information

Awards will be announced by January 31, 2022, for a funding term starting no later than March 1, 2022. The following steps are required from all the teams selected for funding:

Budget:

First, create a detailed budget for each PI by February 15, 2022 (1 pm) by coordinating with the appropriate administrator:

for DF/HCC investigators – Deborah Goff, deborah_goff@dfci.harvard.edu

for KI/MIT investigators – Mary Ellen Acone, meacone@mit.edu

Once you have the individual budgets, please compile the entire team’s detailed budget and budget justification and send it as a PDF file to ki-bridge@mit.edu by February 17, 2022 (1 pm). Funding for Traditional Bridge and Footbridge projects should be allocated in equal amounts between the KI/MIT and DF/HCC parts of the team.

Research expenses may include supplies, equipment, and salary and benefits for PIs and other research staff. MIT and DF/HCC will apply different F&A rates according to their established policies. At MIT, special indirect cost rules apply to projects supported by gift funds.

Acceptance of Terms

Each PI must accept in writing the terms that will be attached to the award notification letter.

Progress Reports

A progress report (in PDF format) should be emailed every 6 months for the duration of the project, ending with the Final Report, due one month after the official end date. Progress will be measured against stated milestones and timelines.

For Traditional Bridge grants, Year 2 funding will be contingent upon satisfactory review of the 12-month progress report.

Acknowledgements

Bridge funding **must** be acknowledged in publications, presentations, and invention disclosures. Please email ki-bridge@mit.edu when submitting a manuscript, when manuscripts are accepted, and when filing an invention disclosure.

Members of funded teams may be asked to attend or present at Bridge Project-related donor events.

Contact Information

Additional information about the Bridge Project can be found at: <https://ki-bridge.mit.edu>

Please direct questions to ki-bridge@mit.edu or the Bridge Project Directors:

Tyler Jacks, tjacks@mit.edu

David Livingston, david_livingston@dfci.harvard.edu