2022 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 Friday, September 16, 2022.

**Application Format**
- All materials should be saved as a single PDF document
- Use 12-point Calibri, or 11-point Arial font and margins of 0.5 inches or greater
- Required components (please follow this order):
  - Cover Page with following:
    - Title
    - PI information (names, affiliations, email addresses)
    - Type of award sought (Expansion, Traditional, or Footbridge)
  - Lay Summary: a one-page description of your project, which may be shared with donors (must not contain confidential information)
  - Research Proposal (not to exceed 5 pages including figures and tables):
    - Background and Significance
    - Specific Aims
    - Research Plan
    - 6 Keywords
  - NIH Biosketch for each PI, include Part A (Personal Statement)
  - 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 Friday, December 16, 2022 and invited to present their proposal in front of the Bridge Project Review Committee. If selected, your team **must be able to present (virtually) as a group** on the date of the Round II Review, Thursday, January 12, 2023, and send us your presentation file by 5 PM the day before.
For teams advancing to Round II, a preliminary budget table listing the percentage to be received by each institution (KI/MIT and DF/HCC) must be submitted by Friday, January 6, 2023.
With rare exceptions, funding for Traditional Bridge and Footbridge projects should be allocated in equal amounts between the KI/MIT and DF/HCC parts of the team.

**Award Information**

Awards will be announced by January 31, 2023, for a funding term starting no later than March 1, 2023. The following steps are required from all the teams selected for funding:

**Budget**

First, create a detailed budget for each PI, using the template appropriate to their institution, by 1PM Friday, February 10, 2023, coordinating with their administrator:

- for DF/HCC investigators: Deborah Goff, deborah_goff@dfci.harvard.edu
- for KI/MIT investigators: Mary Ellen Acone, meacone@mit.edu

NB—you may include full salary/exceed the maximum set by the NIH for postdocs and other personal.

Once you have the individual budgets, please compile the entire team’s individual detailed budget and budget justification pages and send as a single PDF file to ki-bridge@mit.edu by 1 PM Friday, February 17, 2023. 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. Special indirect cost rules apply to projects supported by gift funds.

**Acceptance of Terms**

By submitting the application, each PI agrees to abide by the terms stipulated below.

**Term of award and reporting requirements**

Expansion Bridge Grant: The award is for the one-year period from March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. The total cost amount awarded is $750,000. We recognize that clinical projects may require more than one year to complete, and a no-cost extension may be requested with a detailed progress report by Friday, February 2, 2024. In addition, we will contact each team for a progress update after six months.

Traditional Bridge Grant: The award is for the two-year period from March 1, 2023 through February 28, 2025. The total cost amount awarded is $800,000. Funding for year 2 is contingent upon successful review of progress in the first year; to this end, a detailed progress report must be submitted by Friday, February 2, 2024. In addition, we will contact each team for progress updates every six months.
Footbridge Bridge Grant: The award is for the one-year period from March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. The total cost amount awarded is $200,000. We will contact each team for a progress update after six months.

*Progress Reports* (in PDF format) must include:

- Copies of submitted manuscripts
- IP/invention disclosures/patents
- Conference abstracts
- A list of any additional funding supporting work on the project received through a competitive mechanism, e.g., government grant, foundation support (including postdoctoral fellowships)

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.

A detailed **final report** must be submitted within 30 days of the approved end date of the project.

**Acknowledgements**
Bridge funding must be acknowledged in publications, presentations, and invention disclosures. Please email [ki-bridge@mit.edu](mailto: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](https://ki-bridge.mit.edu) Please direct questions to [ki-bridge@mit.edu](mailto:ki-bridge@mit.edu) or the Bridge Project Directors: Tyler Jacks, [tjacks@mit.edu](mailto:tjacks@mit.edu) James DeCaprio, [James_DCaprio@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:James_DCaprio@dfci.harvard.edu)