

Sister Institution Network Fund (SINF)

FY19 Request for Application

OVERVIEW

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Cancer Network/Global Academic Programs (GAP) is pleased to announce the 2018-2019 Request for Applications (RFA) for the Sister Institution Network Fund (SINF) program with a submission deadline of **February 18, 2019**.

Having created a unique Sister Institution Network, MD Anderson Cancer Center is in an excellent position to leverage these relationships to make a global impact on cancer through research and education relating to patient care and prevention. Started in 2011, the SINF has strongly resonated with our global network. The grant program has supported 123 projects through which MD Anderson faculty have collaborated with researchers and physician-scientists from over 60 collaborating institutions, including 35 Sister Institutions, across 37 countries to exchange knowledge with the shared mission of eliminating cancer in Texas, the nation, and the world.

An outstanding opportunity to sustain this momentum exists. We are grateful for the generous support of the **MD Anderson Cancer Fund** for the next round of funding which provides the opportunity to use this seed-funding program to realize the vision of promoting the advances made at MD Anderson to the global cancer community. A maximum of 20 grants will be awarded in response to the 2018-2019 RFA.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this fund is to provide support to initiate and enhance collaborations in research and education, between MD Anderson and collaborating institutions within our Cancer Network.

NEW: GAP's mission-based projects

In this cycle we invite the submission of projects focused on GAP's following mission areas:

- Population-based screening and prevention in low-resourced environments
- Government/Ministries of Health impact on public health policy
- Collaborative translational research with near term clinical impact

These studies may involve considerable scientific risk but may potentially lead to a breakthrough in a particular area, or to the development of novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models, or applications that could have a major impact on cancer research and patient outcomes. It is expected that support via this program will lead to subsequent extramural support from other sources, and will be a metric of success for this grant awarding program. In addition, publications citing SINF and Global Academic Programs will be further metrics for success of the program.

FUNDING

Up to 20 individual projects will be funded for up to \$100,000 (total cost) each and over a 2-year award period. Funding for smaller feasibility projects that are critical to the conduct of future bigger studies will also be encouraged. Indirect costs are included in the total award.

Note:

- Strong preference will be given to projects involving more than one participating institution.
- Though grant is awarded for collaborative projects, funding will be awarded directly to MD Anderson applicant. The collaborating investigators will be supported by their individual institutions.

KEY DATES

- Application submission deadline: 11:59 pm Central Standard Time on February 18, 2019
- Award Announcements: **March 31, 2019**
- Award Period: **June 1-May 30, 2019**

ELIGIBILITY

- All faculty at the ranks of Assistant, Associate, and full Professor are eligible
- Nurses with faculty appointments or non-faculty nurses with a faculty mentor are eligible to apply
- Applications including at least one Sister Institution/ Cancer Network Partner, Associate, Affiliate or Certified Member/MOU relationships are eligible. (Please contact sinf@mdanderson.org regarding any questions about an institution's eligibility.)

Note: After several years of successfully awarding grants, the goal of the SINP was revised to focus on supporting **new** research with members of the GAP network and MDACC faculty not already engaged in collaborative research with the network. Therefore, **MD Anderson faculty members who currently receive funding from the SINP are not eligible to apply for a second grant on this cycle (2018-2019).**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

Formatting: Documents must include page number with font Arial, size 11, margins 1" inch.

The SINP application requires the following application materials. PHS398 template forms are available at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

- Cover Letter (1 page) that introduces project and **the value of the collaboration***
- Abstract, limited to 300 words, will be provided by applicant within the online application
- PHS398 Mandatory Forms:
 - Face Page
 - Summary/Relevance/Key Personnel
 - Budget for Entire Proposed Period including budget justification
 - Biographical Sketch for 1 Key Personnel from each collaborating institution *inclusive of PI or Co-PI (Must not exceed 5 pages per the NIH SF424R-R)*
 - Other Support Form/s, as needed
 - Collaborating Institution(s): Statement(s) Monetary/Non-Financial Support

- Specific Aims: A one-page statement of your objectives for the project. (A template is available on [SINF website](#))
- Research Plan: Six page limit, not including references.
- Statement(s) of Support: If a project involves specific resources (such as biospecimens, etc.) applicant is required to provide documentation that the resources are available for study.

SUBMISSION

The application should be completed online via Submittable in accordance with the SINF Program Guidelines available at: www.mdanderson.org/sinf. Applicants will be required to create a Submittable account and may complete the application by clicking [here](#) or by visiting the SINF website to access the Submittable link. Paper applications that are emailed, dropped off, or mailed to the Office of Research Administration will not be accepted (exceptions may be made on a case by case basis).

Additional submission details:

- The Error Correction Window for the SINF FY19 application is 48 hours from the 02/18/2019 deadline. The application must be submitted prior to the deadline of 02/18/2019 to allow the applicant to edit.
- Should the due date fall on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is automatically extended to next business day.
- In case of emergency situation or extreme weather, documentation of institutional closing should be sent along with application, which must be received by 5pm local time on the first business day that the institution is open.
- **Late submissions will not be accepted and will be referred to the next award cycle. There will be no exceptions.**

SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants will submit a Research Plan, which will receive an Overall Impact score and brief written critique. The scoring criteria and definitions coincide with the current NIH peer review process, with range of scores from 1 (best) to 9 (worst). The following NIH criteria will be used to score the Research Plan, in addition to additional criteria gauging ***feasibility and relevance to SINF's mission***.

Overall Impact (Priority) Score: Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved. Reviewers will also consider the review criteria stated below (See: Review Criteria).

Review Criteria: Reviewers will consider each of the six review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each (additional details are available in SINF Program Guidelines):

- Significance
- Investigator(s)
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment
- Relevance/Feasibility

POST-AWARD INFORMATION

Fund Disbursement: Awarded applications will receive funds in the manner described in the executed SINF Award Memo. Certain contingencies for release of funds may exist. All proposed research involving human subjects, animals, or biohazardous materials including surveys or questionnaires or human tissue, must have appropriate committee (IRB, IACUC, IBC) approval and verified by the Office of Research Administration prior to funding.

Publication/ Presentation Citation: In all presentations and/or publications of findings derived by the use of these funds, the following citation should be used “This research was supported by funds from the MD Anderson Cancer Fund via the Sister Institution Network Fund at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.”

Residual Funds: Any funds not expended by the end of the award period will be returned to the SINF funding source for reallocation.

Progress Reports: Awardees will be required to submit annual progress reports describing the research accomplishments, publications and/or presentations and extramural funding received as a result of the grant. These should be submitted via e-mail to SINF@mdanderson.org. Awardees will be also be expected to present their progress reports as an oral presentation at one or more annual GAP meetings upon request.

Please note: In compliance with the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, components of this program (travel, meals, and educational materials) may require reports of payment or transfer of value provided to all US licensed physicians. SINF team will alert grantees should regulations mandate reporting.

INQUIRIES

For guidelines including application process, review criteria, and FAQs please visit SINF website at <http://www.mdanderson.org/sinf>.

Additional inquiries may be emailed to SINF@mdanderson.org