UTMB HEALTH TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAM for FY15

BACKGROUND
One of the institutional goals of UTMB Health is to support and promote technology transfer and commercialization of research discoveries. The Technology Commercialization Program (TCP) will provide seed funds to support the commercialization of discoveries created at the UTMB Health. The funds for this program will be made available from the UTMB Health President’s Royalty Fund. The program is developed and offered by a partnership between the Office of Technology Transfer and the Office of Research. The distribution of funds under this award will be handled by the Office of Sponsored Programs.

PROGRAM POLICIES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

ELIGIBILITY
- All UTMB full-time faculty are eligible to submit the application to the UTMB Health TCP.
- The technology to be developed and commercialized is based upon efforts of a present UTMB faculty member or researcher, and has the potential to provide meaningful healthcare benefits.
- A UTMB Invention Disclosure (ID) Form describing the technology is submitted to the Office of Technology Transfer. Applicants should submit the ID form before the proposal deadline.

REVIEW OF FULL PROPOSALS
The processes related to review and selection of projects, administration of funds, and evaluation of progress on the project will be administered through joint efforts of the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) and the Office of Research. All proposals will be reviewed by a standing committee supplemented by ad hoc reviewers with successful experience in starting a company or receiving SBIR/STTR grants. Reviewers will be asked to address how this proposal will increase the commercial potential and marketability of the technology and the likelihood that successful completion of the proposed project will lead to future funding opportunities. Reviewers will specifically be asked to comment in the following categories:

  **Significance:** Does the proposal address a strategic innovation? What will be the effect of the proposed studies on concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field? How strong is the commercial potential of the project in terms of leading to a marketable product or process? Will the technology have a competitive advantage over existing or alternative technologies in meeting the market needs?

  **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

  **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods?

  **Investigators:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)? Does the research team bring complementary and integrated experience in the project?

  **Environment:** Does the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements?
FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding in the amount of $500,000 will be available annually for the next three years with the possibility of extension depending on the success of the program and availability of funds. Each selected project will be funded for a maximum of $50,000 for a year. The extension of funding for second year will be on competitive basis and will take into consideration the recipient achieving the set milestones and showing adequate progress during the first year. Awards are anticipated to be made by January 15, 2016.

Note: Recipients are expected to participate in the Institute of Translational Sciences (ITS)/CTSA-Supported Innovations in Molecular Therapeutics and Devices Workgroups. These workgroups are designed to aid the recipients in commercializing their technologies.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) The purpose of the LOI is to provide a brief summary of the proposal for review. Please submit LOI (no more than one page) including the name and contact information for the PI, names of the key personnel, title of the proposal, and a brief description of the following:

- Intellectual Property Status (invention disclosure, pending patent applications, issued patents).
- Technology Solution (A brief overview of technology approach, and proposed solution, and how the proposed plan of work will advance the commercial potential of the technology).

The letter of intent is due by 5 PM, August 17, 2015, and should be sent to Office of Research, Ms. Lucia (Lucy) Cardenas-Gonzales; E: lcgonzal@utmb.edu and Office of Technology Transfer, Ms. Jacqueline Ramos, jrramos@utmb.edu

GRANT PREPARATION

Applicants should complete the following forms in the order listed (copies of all PHS 398 forms are available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html):

- PHS 398 Form Page 1 – Face Page
- PHS 398 Form Page 2 – Abstract and Performance Site(s)
- PHS 398 Form Page 4/5 – Detailed Budget*
- *Faculty salary will not be funded from this award
- PHS 398 Continuation pages containing the following information:

1. Background and Proposed Research Plan: This section should not exceed four pages. Organize the research plan to answer these questions.

(a) Brief Description of the Technology
(b) Commercial/ Market Potential of the Technology
(c) Competitive Advantage of the Technology
(d) Experimental Approach and Methods: Please provide preliminary data if available, description of the methods of study and expected results.
(e) Proposed Research Plan with Milestones, Timelines and Costs

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(f) Status of Intellectual Property
(g) A description of how the proposed project will create new initiatives and support the commercialization of discoveries created at UTMB Health, and lead to new extramural grant support. Describe any other funding currently available or being sought for the development of this technology.

2. **Potential Commercialization plan (no more than ½ page):** Do you see this technology leading to a license to an existing independent company or as a new UTMB startup company.

3. **Additional documents**

   a) A list of cited literature: This section is not considered in page limitations.

   b) PHS 398 Biographical Sketch: A current 4 page NIH-style biographical sketch including other support information) should be included for the principal investigator and all co-investigators. Junior investigators should also list start-up funds available for their research program.

   c) OSP proposal routing form: An Office of Sponsored Programs Proposal Routing form must accompany all intramural research grant applications (copies of this form are available at the OSP web page: [http://research.utmb.edu/osp/forms.shtm](http://research.utmb.edu/osp/forms.shtm))

**Grant Submission:** Please submit the electronic version as a single PDF file to:

Research Services  
C/O: Ms. Lucia (Lucy) Cardenas-Gonzales  
lcgonzal@utmb.edu

Office of Technology Transfer  
Jacqueline Ramos  
jrramos@utmb.edu

Applications are due by **September 28, 2015**. Late applications will not be reviewed unless there are extenuating circumstances and an extension is approved by Dr. David Niesel (Vice President and Chief Research Officer).

**Reporting Requirements**

The Principal Applicant on the application will be responsible for monitoring the grant deliverables, progress of the project, and providing 1 page six-month status updates and a final report. Reports should include current status of the project, resources committed and the benefit of the results to commercialization. The final report is due 45 days after the termination of the project.

Please contact Dr. Sundeep Mattmana (E: [sumattam@utmb.edu](mailto:sumattam@utmb.edu)) or Dr. Nisha J Garg (E: [nigarg@utmb.edu](mailto:nigarg@utmb.edu)) for any questions or further information.