PURPOSE
This intramural seed grant program of the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers (CGIC) is designed to spur team-based basic, translational, clinical, or population health research in GI cancers by providing pilot funding to support new or existing projects in early stages. Funds are intended to be used to formalize collaborations and acquire preliminary data that allow for competitive submissions for extramural funding, including multi-PI R01 and program project grants. Two (2) projects will be funded for academic year 2022-2023.

AWARD DETAILS
Award Amount: Up to $50,000 for one year.
Application Submission Opening: March 1, 2022
Application Deadline: May 1, 2022
Start of Funding: July 1, 2022

ELIGIBILITY
• Research must pertain to one or more gastrointestinal cancers, which emerge from organs of the gastrointestinal tract including the esophagus, stomach, liver, gall bladder, pancreas, small intestines, and large intestines.
• Projects must be submitted by teams of at least two (2) faculty-level principal investigators (PI; associate research scientist, research scientist, senior research scientist, instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor) who come from two different research disciplines (basic, clinical, population sciences) or different departments or institutes.
• Projects may be focused on basic/translational research questions, correlatives as part of a clinical trial, population health especially as it relates to catchment area and health equity, cancer prevention and control, or process improvement/implementation science (e.g., palliative care implementation, assessing quality improvement measures, or evaluation of methods for extraction of eligible clinical trial patients from EMR).
• Projects that make use of the GI Tumor Biorepository are encouraged but not required.
• Grants are intended to support new projects or existing projects in their very early stages. Grants cannot be used to provide bridge or supplemental funding for ongoing projects.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
All grant documents should be formatted per NIH guidelines (Arial font, size 11 for text and size 9 for figure legends; 0.5” margins on all sides). All application materials should be combined as a single PDF and submitted to Jess Collins (jess.collins@yale.edu) by May 1, 2022 at 11:59 PM.
1. Cover Page: proposal title and list of all Key Personnel with names, role (e.g., PI, Co-I, etc.), titles, department/institute affiliation, and contact email/phone number
2. Abstract (up to 250 words): summary of proposed research (up to 250 words)
3. Research Proposal (up to 4 pages including figures/tables, not including References): including the following sections: Background and Significance, Specific Aims, Preliminary Data (not required), and the Experimental Design with Statistical Plan
4. Outcomes (up to 500 words): describe specific deliverables from the project and how they will be used to support a grant application, clinical trial, or other new initiatives.
5. Letters of Collaboration: confirm participation of essential collaborators or availability of essential reagents
6. Budget and Budget Justification (1 page): see Allowable and Unallowable Expenses below
7. NIH Biosketches: PIs and Key Personnel (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)
8. Other Support: PIs (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/other support.htm)

REVIEW CRITERIA
1. Significance: Are the concepts, hypotheses, and proposed work important to the field of GI cancers?
2. Impact: What is the likelihood that funding will establish or strengthen collaborations and generate preliminary data, which would be competitive for external funding applications?
3. **Approach:** Are the methods technically innovative, feasible, and rigorous? Can the project be completed in the allocated time? If the project is dependent on availability of other resources (i.e., equipment, core facilities, etc.), are those resources reasonably accessible to the team?

4. **Team:** Does the team have adequate and complementary expertise to carry out the project?

5. **Outlook:** Are the deliverables appropriate and likely to lead to greater extramural funding?

**SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEE** (tentative)

1. Mandar Muzumdar (Co-Director, Pancreas Program, Committee Chair)
2. Pam Kunz (Co-Director, Neuroendocrine Tumor Program)
3. Michael Cecchini (Co-Director, CRC Program)
4. Stacey Stein (Co-Director, Advanced Hepatobiliary Program)
5. John Kunstman (PI GI Tumor Biorepository)
6. Sarah Goldberg (Scientific Director, Center for Thoracic Cancers)
7. Qi Yin (Scientific Director, Center for Breast Cancers)
8. Ranjit Bindra (Scientific Director, Brain Tumor Center)
9. Jessica Lewis (Deputy Director, Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity)

*Note: Committee members who are Key Personnel on applications will be recused from scoring/discussion of these applications.*

**GRANT GUIDELINES**

1. All publications resulting from research supported by this grant should contain an acknowledgement: “This research was supported in part by a seed grant from the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center (P30-CA016359).”

2. A written final report will be required at the conclusion of the grant. Grantees will be notified at least four weeks prior to the grant conclusion with information on the final grant report. After submission, any additional publications or grants resulting from the grant must be promptly reported to CGIC.

3. A presentation at the conclusion of the grant to be given at the CGIC weekly seminar series is required.

4. For studies requiring IRB approval, it is expected that an IRB protocol will be submitted within one month of award notification. CGIC must be notified when such protocols are submitted and approved.

5. It is expected that the funds will be expended in full during the one-year duration of the grant. If funds remain after the year, no-cost extensions (for up to 6 months) may be requested and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

6. All grant recipients must respond promptly to requests for information about their grant from CGIC scientific leadership and administrative staff.

7. Recipients may be asked to meet with CGIC supporters and describe their research and are expected to make every attempt to accommodate these requests.

**ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

**Allowable Expenditures** (Direct costs only)

- Salary (and fringe) support can be requested for laboratory personnel such as postdoctoral fellows, students, and research technicians up to 50% effort.
- Laboratory supplies and expenses, including animal costs
- User fees for Core Facilities

**Unallowable Expenditures**

- Salary support for the PIs or any faculty co-investigators
- Secretarial/administrative personnel
- Office equipment and supplies
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Tuition or student registration fees
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Registration fees or travel expenses for scientific meetings
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies

*For scientific inquiries, please contact mandar.muzumdar@yale.edu
All other questions should be referred to jess.collins@yale.edu*