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PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

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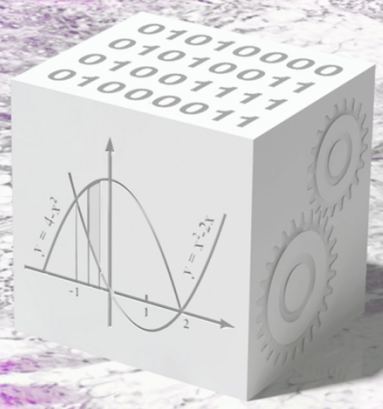

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Physical Sciences-Oncology Network (PS-ON) Pre-Application Webinar:

Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OCs; U54; PAR-14-169)
Physical Sciences-Oncology Projects (PS-OPs; U01; PAR-15-021)

September 24, 2015

Sean E. Hanlon
Nastaran Z. Kuhn
Division of Cancer Biology
National Cancer Institute, NIH

PS-ON Website
http://pson.cancer.gov

NIH National Institutes of Health

The Future of the Physical Sciences-Oncology Network (PS-ON)

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FY09 — FY15

Pre-Award → RFA-CA09-009 → **PS-ON FOAs** → Future

Original PS-OC Program (FY09-14):

- RFA
- 12 U54 PS-OCs
- 4 Themes:
  - Physics (Physical Laws and Principles) of Cancer
  - Evolution and Evolutionary Theory of Cancer
  - Information Coding, Decoding, Transfer, and Translation in Cancer
  - De-convoluting Cancer's Complexity

Physical Sciences-Oncology Network:

- PAR; Type 1 (new) Applications
- Centers – Physical Sciences-Oncology Center (PS-OCs; U54s)
- Projects – Physical Sciences-Oncology Projects (PS-OPs; U01s)
- 2 Themes (suggested):
  - The Physical Dynamics of Cancer
  - Spatial Organization and Cancer

- **FOA:** Funding Opportunity Announcement
- **PAR:** Program Announcement with special Receipt, Referral, and/or Review considerations

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Goals of the PS-ON

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- Facilitate team science and **field convergence** at the intersection of physical sciences and cancer research
- Build a transdisciplinary network that **collectively tests** physical sciences based theories and models of cancer
- Connect physical sciences perspectives with translational research by **reducing barriers** between physical scientists and physician scientists
- Establish a **sustainable physical sciences perspective** within the cancer research community

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Physical Sciences-Oncology Projects (PS-OPs; U01; PAR-15-021)

Mechanism of Support & Funding: PS-OP U01

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Mechanism of Support: U01, Research Project -Cooperative Agreements

*Supports **discrete, specified, circumscribed projects** to be performed by investigator(s) in an area representing their specific interests and competencies. Used when **substantive programmatic involvement** is anticipated by the NIH.*

Application Type: All submissions will be Type 1 (new applications)

Budget: Not to exceed $500K per year (*direct costs*).
(Cap is exclusive of 3rd party F&A costs)

Project Period: Not to exceed 5-years

Note on Eligible Applicants: Foreign (non-U.S.) Institutions are eligible to apply and foreign components are allowed

Leadership Expertise: PS-OP U01

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FOA Language:

"Due to the transdisciplinary nature of the projects and the focus on collaboration and expertise sharing, this FOA strongly encourages the use of the multi-PD/PI option with a ***small team of combined expertise from the physical sciences and cancer research***. When applicable, additional PD/PIs, key personnel, and collaborators should consist of a ***transdisciplinary research team*** with complementary abilities organized around a scientific framework to ***address fundamental question(s) in cancer research***. It is recognized that there may be instances where a single PD/PI will already have the combined expertise to bring a physical science perspective to study an important problem in cancer research and may not need to use the multi-PD/PI option."

Physical Sciences and/or Engineering

- ***Engineering***
- ***Chemistry***
- ***Computer Sciences***
- ***...***
- ***Materials Sciences***
- ***Mathematics***
- ***Physics***

Cancer Research

- ***Cancer Biology***
- ***Epidemiology***
- ***...***
- ***Oncology***
- ***Pathology***

Expertise can be established through training and / or a body of work that demonstrates impact on the field.

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Requirements: PS-OP U01

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FOA Language:

"PS-OP applications should propose a single, cohesive project. ***Applications proposing multiple projects are not appropriate for this FOA***. Applicants interested in proposing more than one project may do so by submitting multiple applications or considering if the scope of the proposed research falls under the companion U54 PS-OC FOA (Centers).

In addition, the following types of projects are not considered to be of high programmatic priority:

- Projects which do not involve a clear, well-integrated physical sciences perspective or approach to the cancer research question
- Projects focused on the development of nanotechnologies for cancer research should consider the FOAs offered by the NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer Program (PAR-14-285)
- Projects focused on the development of informatics technology should consider the FOAs offered by the NCI Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR) Program (PAR-15-334; PAR-15-332; PAR-15-331; PAR-15-333)."

- Note: Nano and ITCR FOA numbers have been updated

Research Objectives (NCI): PS-OP U01

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FOA Language:
"This FOA for PS-OPs invites a broad range of research that addresses important cancer questions from a physical sciences perspective. Applicants may focus on one of the suggested thematic areas, other physical sciences-based thematic areas, such as the role of evolutionary theory in cancer or de-convoluting the complexity of cancer, or integrate multiple thematic areas into a discrete, specified, circumscribed collaborative research project.

Understanding and applying physical science perspectives and approaches to cancer biology and oncology can cover a variety of topics and areas of research. While the research topic is not limited, the following represents two examples of research areas and the type of questions that could be framed within an application."

NCI examples of thematic areas as defined in Part 2, Section I of PAR-15-021:

The Physical Dynamics of Cancer

- ***Overview:*** ***Physical properties such as mechanical cues, transport phenomena, bioelectric signals, and thermal fluctuations*** can modulate the behavior of cancer cells, the microenvironment, tumors, and the host and may regulate (+/-) the initiation and progression of cancer.

Spatio-Temporal Organization and Information Transfer in Cancer

- ***Overview:*** Appropriate spatial and temporal ***organization of structures across many biological and physical length-scales (e.g., subcellular, cell, tissue, organ, whole organism) and time scales*** is required for managing the transfer of information that is critical for regulated growth.

Research Objectives (NCI): PS-OP U01

NCI = National Cancer Institute
NIBIB = National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
NICHD = *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

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NIBIB interests as defined in Part 2, Section I of PAR-15-021:

Program Contact: Rosemarie Hunziker, Ph.D. E-mail: hunzikerr@mail.nih.gov

Interests for NIBIB lie in the ***development of innovative technologies and analytical and computational tools*** to explore the process of tumor initiation and progression. Some examples include, but are not limited to the development of:

- Force probes to measure mechanical forces in cancer;
- Micro-fluidic devices to model the 3D tumor microenvironment;
- Novel materials and matrices to study the metastatic process;
- Formulation of predictive, multiscale mathematical models of metastasis and angiogenesis;
- New imaging techniques to characterize physical changes in cells in transition from non-cancerous to metastatic.

NICHD interests as defined in Part 2, Section I of PAR-15-021:

Program Contact: Mahua Mukhopadhyay, Ph.D. E-mail: mahua.mukhopadhyay@nih.gov

NICHD's focus in this FOA is to promote ***studies addressing developmental mechanisms relevant to cancer cell biology***. It is also important to note that NICHD will only support ***studies conducted in vivo***, as emphasized below:

- The research activities must be confined to embryonic development, such as the physical mechanisms contributing to embryonic morphogenesis, tissue patterning, and spatio-temporal organization, in the context of cancer biology.
- *In vivo* experimental systems to be used are confined to multicellular vertebrate or invertebrate animal models.
- Theoretical model- or hypotheses-driven studies conducted in tissue explants and/or cell culture-based in vitro experimental systems should be extended to include *in vivo* systems.

Key Dates: PS-OP U01

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	Pre-Application Webinar*	Letters of Intent Due Dates	Application Due Dates	Review Dates	Earliest Anticipated Start Dates
Round 1	Dec 17, 2014	Jan 15, 2015	Feb 26, 2015	June/July 2015	Sep 2015
Round 2	Sept 24, 2015	Oct 14, 2015	Nov 25, 2015	Mar/Apr 2016	July 2016
Round 3	TBD, estimated Mar 2016	Apr 14, 2016	May 26, 2016	Sep/Oct 2016	Apr 2017
Round 4	TBD, estimated July 2016	Aug 10, 2016	Sep 21, 2016	Jan/Feb 2017	July 2017
Round 5	TBD, estimated Mar 2017	Apr 14, 2017	May 26, 2017	Sep/Oct 2017	Apr 2018
Round 6	TBD, estimated July 2017	Aug 10, 2017	Sep 21, 2017	Jan/Feb 2018	July 2018

* Visit our website for updates on pre-application webinar dates: http://pson.cancer.gov

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Letter of Intent (LOI): PS-OP U01

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- Second Round Due Date: October 14, 2015
- Highly encouraged but not required
- Allows NIH review staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review
- Standard elements:
  - Descriptive title of proposed activity
  - Name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of the PD(s)/PI(s)
  - Names of other key personnel
  - Participating institution(s)
  - Number and title of this funding opportunity (PAR-15-021)
- *Additional recommended elements:*
  - *Provide a brief description of PS-OP framework (3-5 sentences)*
  - *Include Relevant Expertise (s) and Keyword(s)*

Application & Submission Information: PS-OP U01

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Section of Application	Page Limits
Introduction to Resubmission Applications	1
Specific Aims	1
Research Strategy	12
Biographical Sketch	5 (new format*)

*New NIH Biosketch format required for due dates on/after May 25, 2015 (NOT-OD-15-032)
New NIH Biosketch format FAQ page: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm

Application & Submission Information: PS-OP U01

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

R&R or Modular Budget

All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed ***in addition to the following instructions***:

Trans-Network Projects:

- A ***minimum of 6% of the direct costs per*** year must be allocated in the proposed budget specifically for Trans-Network projects for leveraging the expertise of multiple PS-OPs and/or PS-OCs to test or validate new ideas (*e.g.,* $30K for a requested budget of $500K direct costs).

  -- Please clearly state the allocation for Trans-Network Projects in the budget.

Optional PS-OP Pilot Projects:

- It is optional to include up to 5% of the direct costs per year in the proposed budget specifically for PS-OP Pilot Projects (*e.g.,* $25K for a requested budget of $500K direct costs).

Travel:

- Appropriate travel funds must be included in the proposed budget to support travel for at least one PS-OP PD/PI to the Annual PS-ON Investigators' Meeting and/or a Steering Committee Meeting.

Application & Submission Information: PS-OP U01

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

PHS 398 Research Plan

All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed, with the following additional instructions:

Research Strategy: PS-OP applicants should ***clearly describe what cancer research problem they plan to investigate and how the proposed physical sciences perspective or approach could bring novel insight to cancer biology and oncology***.

Resource Sharing Plan: Individuals are required to comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans (Data Sharing Plan, Sharing Model Organisms, and Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS)) as provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, with the following modification:

- All applications, regardless of the amount of direct costs requested for any one year, should address a Data Sharing Plan.
- Data, software, and models from this FOA are expected to be shared in an easily accessible format so as to increase the value of the significant public investment. Program staff may negotiate modifications to these plans prior to funding.
- The resource sharing plan should briefly describe the types of data, software, and models that are expected to be generated and shared, consistent with achieving the goals of this program.
- The resource sharing plan should address sharing of data both within a Center and across the Network, consistent with achieving the goals of this program.
- The resource-sharing plan should address sharing of data through the PS-ON Data Coordinating Center, NCIP Hub for Physical Sciences in Oncology, and/or other public access databases, consistent with achieving the goals of this program.

Application Review Information: PS-OP U01

- Consider the ***FOA specific review questions*** defined in Part 2, Section V under each of the review criteria

- Scored Review Criteria
  - **Significance**
  - **Investigator(s)**
  - **Innovation**
  - **Approach**
  - **Environment**

Application Review Information: PS-OP U01

Cover Letter

- Although not required, inclusion of a Cover Letter is encouraged to:
  - Indicate scientific areas of expertise needed for a fair and knowledgeable review of the application
  - Indicate reviewers with potential conflict of interest

Review Roster

- It is the responsibility of the applicants to check the review roster that is posted in eRA Commons 30 days prior to the review and to communicate any concerns to the Scientific Review Officer (SRO).

PAR-15-021

Contact Information

PS-OP U01

NCI = National Cancer Institute
NIBIB = National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
NICHD = *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

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Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OCs; U54; PAR-14-169)

Mechanism of Support & Funding: PS-OC U54

PAR-14-169

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Mechanism of Support: U54, Specialized Center-Cooperative Agreements

The spectrum of activities comprises a ***multidisciplinary attack*** *on a specific disease entity or biomedical problem area. These differ from program project in that they are usually developed in response to an announcement of the programmatic needs of an Institute or Division and subsequently* ***receive continuous attention from its staff****. Centers may also serve as regional or* ***national resources for special research purposes****, with funding component staff helping to identify appropriate priority needs.*

Application Type: All submissions will be Type 1 (new applications)

Budget: Not to exceed $1.5M per year (*direct costs*) per Center. *(Cap is exclusive of 3rd party F&A costs)*

Project Period: Not to exceed 5-years

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PS-OC Leadership Expertise

PAR Language:

"Due to the transdisciplinary nature of the projects and the focus on collaboration and expertise sharing, this FOA strongly encourages the use of the multi-PD/PI mechanism. … The Center Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) (contact PD/PI for applications with multiple PDs/PIs) ***must be*** a scientist with formal training and expertise in the ***physical sciences and/or engineering***. Each applicant team ***must also include*** an additional PD/PI or other senior/key person with primary expertise in ***cancer research***."

Physical Sciences and/or Engineering

- ***Engineering***
- ***Chemistry***
- ***Computer Sciences***
- ***…***
- ***Materials Sciences***
- ***Mathematics***
- ***Physics***

Cancer Research

- ***Cancer Biology***
- ***Epidemiology***
- ***…***
- ***Oncology***
- ***Pathology***

Expertise can be established through training and / or a body of work that demonstrates impact on the field.

Thematic Areas of Interest

"FOA invites a broad range of research that addresses important cancer questions from a physical sciences perspective..."

Suggested themes as defined in Part 2, Section I of PAR-14-169

The Physical Dynamics of Cancer

- ***Overview:*** ***Physical properties such as mechanical cues, transport phenomena, bioelectric signals, and thermal fluctuations*** can modulate the behavior of cancer cells, the microenvironment, tumors, and the host and may regulate (+/-) the initiation and progression of cancer.

Spatio-Temporal Organization and Information Transfer in Cancer

- ***Overview:*** Appropriate spatial and temporal ***organization of structures across all length scales (e.g., subcellular, cell, tissue, organ, whole organism) and time scales*** is required for managing the transfer of information that is critical for controlled growth.

Organization of Individual PS-OCs

PAR-14-169

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

PS-OC Framework	Each Center will be nucleated around a *physical sciences-based* organizing framework that *focuses its research, training, and outreach efforts*. The framework will *define the overall research direction* of a Center and identify fundamental question(s) in cancer research that will be addressed by the Center.
Administrative Core	Administrative Cores will *manage and coordinate* all Center research and activities and serve as the liaisons between the Centers and the Network.
Research Projects	A *well developed research program (2-3 projects)* that demonstrates and *supports the organizing framework* will form the foundation of each Center.
Shared Research Resources	While not required, Shared Resource Cores (0-2) may be established to *provide expertise and resources that support* and integrate multiple Research Projects.
Education and Outreach Unit	PS-OC Education and Outreach Units will coordinate the *education, training, career development, and scientific outreach activities* of the Center.

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Key Dates

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Final PS-OC U54 Receipt Date!!!

	Pre-Application Webinar	Letters of Intent Due Dates	Application Due Dates	Review Dates	Earliest Anticipated Start Dates
Round 3	September 24, 2025	October 14, 2015	November 25, 2015	February / March 2016	July 2016

Letter of Intent (LOI)

- Due Date: October 14, 2015
- Highly encouraged but not required
- Standard elements:
  - ❑ Descriptive title of proposed activity
  - ❑ Name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of the PD(s)/PI(s)
  - ❑ Names of other key personnel
  - ❑ Participating institution(s)
  - ❑ Number and title of this funding opportunity
- *Additional recommended elements:*
  - ❑ *Provide a brief description of PS-OC organizing framework (3-5 sentences)*
  - ❑ *Include Relevant Expertise and Keywords*

Application & Submission Information

Electronic submission is required for PAR-14-169

ASSIST - *Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking*

You are strongly encouraged to upload and test your application in ASSIST at least five days prior to the application deadline. This will allow time to correct any formatting or technical errors. Once the deadline passes (5:00 PM local time on November 25) you will *no longer be able to access your application to correct errors*.

- Familiarize yourself with ASSIST early.
- Pay attention to the order of the application components to save time and reduce errors.

ASSIST Website:
https://public.era.nih.gov/assist/public/login.do

ASSIST Webinar:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/webinar_docs/webinar_20130813.htm

Problems accessing or using ASSIST should be directed to the eRA Commons Help Desk.

Application & Submission Information

PAR-14-169

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Component Types Available in ASSIST	Research Strategy/Program Plan Page Limits
Overall	12
Admin Core	6
Project	12 *per Research Project*
Core	12 *per Shared Resource Core*
Educ Outreach Unit	6

- **Overall:** Required
- **Admin Core:** Required
- **Projects:** Required; 2-3
- **Cores:** Optional; 0-2; if proposed, each Core must support at least two Projects
- **Educ Outreach Unit:** Required

➢ ***Reminder all Biographical Sketches must be in the new format and have a 5 page limit***

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Overall Component – Research Plan *(see FOA Part 2, Section IV for details)*

- ***Center Organization.*** The Overall component should include a concise description of the structure of the Center including the organizing framework.
- ***Center Integration.*** Applications should explicitly discuss the integration of work proposed in the application.
- ***Center Expertise.*** The Overall component should demonstrate that the Center will include the necessary expertise and support the team science environment needed to complete the proposed transdisciplinary work.
- ***Research Projects.*** Briefly describe each project, including its scientific integration with the proposed organizing framework.
- ***Shared Resource Cores.*** Briefly describe any Shared Resource Cores, including the projects supported by the Core.
- ***Education & Outreach Unit.*** Briefly describe plans for Education and Outreach programs.
- ***Pilot and Trans-Network Projects.*** Concisely describe the Center's strategy for integrating these projects into the overall Center.

Administrative Core – Research Plan *(see FOA Part 2, Section IV for details)*

- ***Center Advisory Committee.*** The CAC should include the PD/PI, one additional physical scientist, two cancer researchers, and one voting NCI Project Scientist (to be named after award). Additionally the CAC should include non-voting external scientific advisors.
- ***Management and Communication Plan.*** The application should describe the plans for management and integration of Center activities and communication and evaluation of progress across the Center.
- ***Pilot and Trans-Network Projects.*** Provide a brief description of strategies to solicit and develop Pilot Projects within the Center and develop Trans-Network projects in collaboration with the PS-ON Steering Committee.
- ***Annual Meeting and Other Network Activities.*** Provide a brief description of strategies for connecting and integrating the Center with the broader PS-ON.
- ***Center and Program Evaluation.*** The Administrative Core should coordinate participation in Center program evaluation activities.

Research Projects – Research Plan *(see FOA Part 2, Section IV for details)*

- Each application should consist of ***two to three*** Research Projects (*12 page Research Plan limit per Research Project*)

- This section should describe the ***overall research strategy*** for the Research Project and provide a concise discussion of how the Project is ***integrated within the Center***. The Research Project should focus on innovative approaches that integrate ***physical sciences and cancer research perspectives*** to address fundamental question(s) in cancer research.

- If the Research Project will utilize the Shared Resource Core(s), the application should describe how the ***Core(s) capabilities impact the proposed project***.

Shared Resource Cores – Research Plan *(see FOA Part 2, Section IV for details)*

- Each application should consist of ***zero to two*** Shared Research Cores (*12 page Research Plan limit per Shared Resource Core*)

- The Shared Resource Core may be physical or virtual infrastructure ***providing a biological or physical science resource*** that supports other Center components in their activities.
- Each Shared Resource Core is expected to ***support two or more Research Projects*** and the services and resources provided to other Center components should be clearly defined.
- Issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to: ***value*** of the Core services to the Center and Research Projects, ***integration*** between the Core and Projects, ***quality control***, procedures for selecting Projects to use the Core and ***allocating resources***, cost effectiveness, and increased ***efficiency***.
- ***Training*** in complex techniques and methods should be described if they are functions of the proposed Core.
- These shared resources ***must not duplicate analogous resources*** already established in the applicant institutions (although supplemental funding to such existing resources may be requested).

Education & Outreach Unit – Research Plan *(see FOA Part 2, Section IV for details)*

- The Education & Outreach unit will serve to promote the ***education, training, and career development of researchers at all career stages*** and to disseminate advances and capabilities of physical sciences in oncology research to the broader cancer research and physical sciences communities. Potential activities include but are not limited to:
  - ***Boot camps.*** Hands-on interactive training opportunities.
  - ***Research opportunities.*** Summer research programs that bring undergraduate or medical students into PS-OC labs.
  - ***Courses.*** Undergraduate or graduate courses that focus on the integration of physical sciences and cancer research.
  - ***Seminar series.*** Hosting of speakers that can disseminate the capabilities and advances of the Network to the broader cancer research and physical sciences communities.
  - ***Workshops.*** Small focused meetings that bring together the physical sciences and cancer research communities.
  - ***Personnel Exchanges.*** Exchange of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or investigators within a Center or across the Network to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas.
  - ***Cross-training.*** Opportunities for early stage and established investigators in the physical sciences to work in cancer research or vice versa.
  - ***Center Website.*** Establishing a Center website to communicate the Center's mission, describe the availability of Center funding opportunities, and disseminate research data, software, training information and other resources.

Application Review Information

- Consider the ***FOA specific review questions*** defined in Part 2, Section V
- Scored Review Criteria ***for Overall Component and each Research Project***
  - **Significance**
  - **Investigator(s)**
  - **Innovation**
  - **Approach**
  - **Environment**
  - ***Integration***
- Each ***Shared Resource Core and the Education & Training Unit*** will be scored using a ***bulleted list of review criteria*** rather than the standard criterion scores

Application Review Information

Cover Letter

- Although not required, inclusion of a Cover Letter is encouraged to:
  - Indicate scientific areas of expertise needed for a fair and knowledgeable review of the application
  - Indicate reviewers with potential conflict of interest

Review Roster

- It is the responsibility of the applicants to check the review roster that is posted in eRA Commons 30 days prior to the review and to communicate any concerns to the Scientific Review Officer (SRO).

Contact Information

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

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Questions?

Connect with the NCI Physical Sciences - Oncology Network (PS-ON)
Web. http://pson.cancer.gov/
Twitter. @NCIPhySci
LinkedIn. Physical Sciences-Oncology