FAQs for RFA-CA-17-049 Fusion Oncoproteins in Childhood Cancers (FusOnC2) Consortium (U54)

1. **Will there be a webinar recording available?**
   No, the slides will be available on the Division of Cancer Biology website as will FAQs for RFA-CA-17-049. The slides and FAQs can be accessed from this page: https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/dcb.
2. **Are foreign institutions eligible to apply?**
   Foreign institutions are not eligible to submit applications in response to this RFA. However foreign collaborators and foreign components are allowed, so there can be sub-contracts to foreign institutions.
3. **Are NIH Intramural investigators eligible to apply?**
   NIH Intramural investigators cannot be the PD/PI of applications submitted in response to this FOA. However, they can be collaborators or co-investigators on the applications. Applications should include a letter of support from the Intramural Scientific Director.
4. **Is this RFA being issued for just a single award cycle, or will a similar announcement be released again later?**
   This is a single receipt date RFA. It is currently unclear whether another similar RFA will be released later.
5. **Please describe how the review process will work for these applications?**
   These U54s will be reviewed much like Program Project Grants. There will be a Special Emphasis Panel set up to review these applications. In general, three reviewers will be assigned to each Research Project and Core, while other participants will review and evaluate the applications for overall merits of the centers, integration among the projects within the centers, and integration with the larger consortium. All reviewers will be assigned based on their scientific expertise.
6. **Are institutional commitments (voluntary cost-sharing) allowed and are they advantageous?**
   Institutional commitments are allowed and would be advantageous. This could be included in a letter of support from the Dean.
7. **Should individual centers propose a scientific advisory board of their own, or should they rely on the Consortium External Scientific Consultants?**
   Applicants are permitted to propose a scientific advisory board. However, this is not a requirement and does not match to any review criteria for the RFA.
8. **Are applications expected to be centered on only one of the listed cancers, or could they include projects on different cancers?**
   While it may be appropriate to include preliminary data from another fusion oncoprotein or to comment on how advances in this application could also be applied to additional fusion oncoproteins, all research projects within a Center should be focused on a single fusion oncoprotein or on a small family of related fusion oncoproteins listed in the RFA.
9. **Would non-Ewing gene fusions related to EWS-FLI1 (such as EWS-WT1) be responsive to the RFA?**

EWS-WT1 or other similar non-Ewing fusions could be incorporated into a Center focused on Ewing family tumor gene fusions. The applicant should provide justification for how their inclusion will facilitate advances in understanding the biology of and/or advancing therapeutic targeting of Ewing family gene fusions.

10. **Are applications required to include clinical translational pathways?**
    Applicants should describe the potential clinical/translational implications of their research. However, clinical trials are beyond the scope of this RFA, and these projects are not expected to develop shelf-ready drugs within the 5-year funding period.
11. **Is there a percent effort required for PD/PIs or for project leads?**
    No, there is no percent effort required. However, the level of effort must be adequate to achieve the proposed goals.
12. **Are there concerns with using other NIH-funded projects to support the research programs (for instance, the Pediatric Preclinical Testing Consortium (PPTC))?**
    It is perfectly acceptable to take advantage of other NIH-funded resources, such as the Pediatric Preclinical Testing Consortium (PPTC), in the application. Applicants considering proposing to utilize the PPTC should contact Dr. Malcolm Smith (Malcolm.Smith@nih.gov) to ensure that they understand both the capabilities and the limitations of the PPTC in supporting their research objectives.
13. **Is it allowable for the projects to have multiple project leaders?**
    Applications may have multiple project leaders. While there's no NIH policy that limits the number of project leaders, the leadership team should be justified and will be considered by the reviewers.
14. **Are patient-derived orthotopic xenograft models appropriate?**
    This approach can be appropriate for a Research Project. It is up to the applicant to justify the approach taken in light of the research objectives of their proposal.
15. **In applications that have multi-institutional research teams, does the NCI provide funds to each institution directly or are sub-contracts required?**
    Funds from the NCI are paid directly to the contact institution. Sub-contracts are required to provide funds to other institutions.