

Consortium-related questions:

Question: The program application process extends for at least three receipt dates over about two years, how will the program build and what are the implications for the integration aspect of the Consortium?

Answer: Participants of the CSBC (U54, U24, and U01) will be joining the consortium over time as they are funded. This is facilitated by three receipt dates for the U54 and U24 (resubmissions are accepted following the first receipt date), and several receipt dates for the U01s beginning in 2016 (anticipated). The first members of the CSBC will be the currently funded U01 projects from PAR-13-081 and PAR-13-184. We will begin to convene a CSBC Steering Committee and hold CSBC Annual Investigator Meetings following announcement of the awards made from the November 2015 U54 and U24 receipt date.

U54 Research Center-specific questions:

Question: Are foreign components (collaborators, investigators, resources) allowed?

Answer: Yes, per the FOA, foreign components are allowed. Please see Section III, Part 1 of the FOA and the definition of 'foreign component' in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

Question: What types of activities are appropriate for the Outreach Core?

Answer: The activities proposed by each Center should play to the strengths of the Center investigators. Outreach Cores might host programs/activities that fulfill a need within the Consortium or within the broader research community. A broad range of Outreach-related programs is encouraged. Examples of appropriate activities can be found in the FOA.

Question: How should the U54 intra-Center pilot project fund be utilized during year 1? (This refers to the \$50K direct costs per year that is budgeted in the Administrative Core.)

Answer: The intra-Center pilot project fund is to be utilized at the discretion of the Center PI, with consultation of the NCI Program Staff, following the pilot project solicitation process proposed in the U54 application. If a project cannot be identified within the first year of the Center due to normal ramp-up of the proposed Center projects, the funds may be used in the second year.

Cancer systems biology questions:

Question: The FOA states that experimental and mathematical/computational approaches are required. What is the expected balance of experiment versus model/theory?

Answer: The exact balance between experiments and systems modeling is best determined by the question being posed. However, we expect that data from biological experiments

will be utilized to build and/or test the predictions or hypotheses from systems biology modeling efforts. In the past, cancer-relevant experimental systems have been viewed positively. Similarly, applications without significant mathematical, computational, or theoretical approaches have fared poorly.

Question: How much emphasis should be put on translational or bench-to-bedside research?

Answer: Proposals addressing basic cancer research problems are solicited by this FOA. Some translational aspects might add to the application, but they are not required and reviewers will be instructed to place equal value on basic cancer questions.