

*Agenda:*

- 1. Begin presentation at 2:05 EDT*
- 2. Welcome and Introduction*
- 3. PAR Presentation*
- 4. Q&A*

Audio for webinar:

1-855-244-8681

Meeting access number:

739 241 265

Note: meeting audio is being recorded

## Pre-application webinar for [PAR-16-131](#): Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology

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# The Cancer Systems Biology Consortium (CSBC)

The CSBC is a community of systems biologists who aim to integrate experimental biology and computational models across multiple temporal and spatial scales towards a better understanding of cancer.

From the FOA:

CSBC Research Projects should address a **well-defined, discrete, and circumscribed research question** in cancer incorporating **quantitative experimentation, analysis, modeling and validation**, which are the hallmarks of systems biology. As part of the CSBC, investigators from the Research Projects will have the opportunity to share resources and expertise across the Consortium and participate in Consortium activities and annual meetings.

# About the CSBC

- U54 CSBC Research Centers (4 as of 9/1/16) RFA-CA-15-014
- U24 CSBC/PS-ON Coordinating Center (1)
- **U01 Research Projects**
  - 8 U01 Collaborative Research in Integrative Cancer Biology
  - 5 U01 Bridging the Gap Between Cancer Mechanism and Population Science
  - **U01 CSBC Research Projects (PAR-16-131)**

# Goals of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) *Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology*

The purpose of PAR-16-131 is to encourage research projects addressing challenging cancer problems using systems biology approaches. These approaches should include **explicit integration of experimental biology and computational or mathematical modeling** to build, test and/or validate hypotheses or ideas.

# Goals of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

## *Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology*

There are several highlighted areas of interest within the FOA. *Note that the list is non-inclusive and is not meant to restrict the scope of investigator-initiated research topics.*

- Dynamics of cell-cell interactions
- Integration of information across temporal and spatial scales
- Tumor behaviors reflecting single cell characteristics
- Systems-level analyses of the role of the microbiome in cancer
- The combination of systems and synthetic biology for understanding disease mechanisms
- Hierarchical models of cancer (\*see next slide)
- Systems biology aided clinical trial design

Please see Part 2, Section I Funding Opportunity Description for further details.

# Goals of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) *Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology*

\*Models that bridge mechanism and population science are encouraged under this FOA. For applications related to utilizing computational, mathematical or statistical formalisms to bridge a mechanistic systems biology model at one scale and a population-level model at the other, please contact Rocky Feuer ([feurr@exchange.nih.gov](mailto:feurr@exchange.nih.gov)).

The FOA contains a list of projects that are **not appropriate for applications** submitted to this FOA. Please see Part 2, Section I Funding Opportunity Description for further details. *Please contact me if you have questions about if your project falls within one of these categories.*

# Goals of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) *Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology*

In addition to addressing specific biological hypotheses, the continued success of cancer systems biology depends on the [development of new methodologies](#) to address complex and multivariate questions, including **new theoretical, mathematical and computational techniques, multi-scale modeling approaches** capable of integrating across scales from the molecular to the population level, and **new biological tools and systems for informing and testing cancer systems biology generated hypotheses.**

# Mechanism of Support & Funding

**Mechanism of support:** U01, Research Project – Cooperative Agreement

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

**Application Type:** Resubmissions are allowed.

**Budget:** Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.

**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.

**Funds Available and Anticipated # of Awards:** Contingent upon budget and submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.

# Mechanism of Support & Funding

**What is a U01?** A U01 application is *similar to an R01* application in that it is a single project consisting of multiple specific aims that are outlined to achieve the goals of that project.

**What does the “U” designate (vs. “R”)?** The U designates a *cooperative agreement* where there is *programmatic involvement* beyond the normal stewardship role in awards by the NIH program official(s). See the FOA, Section VI-2, “Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions of Award” for responsibilities of the PD(s)/PI(s), the NIH staff, and the areas of joint responsibility.

**If I am an NIH Early Stage Investigator (ESI), will I lose ESI status if designated as PD/PI of an awarded U01?** *Yes*, if you are designated as a PD/PI on an awarded U01 you will no longer be eligible for for ESI status on NIH applications.

**Is special consideration given for applications that have PD(s)/PI(s) with eligible ESI status?** *No*, unlike R01s submitted to the parent research project grant FOA, these *applications will not be given special consideration* for those with ESI status.

# Leadership Expertise

Due to the multi-disciplinary 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 CSBC Research Project PD/PI (contact PD/PI for applications with multiple PDs/Pis) should be a scientist with **expertise in cancer systems biology.**

## Foreign Institutions

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are** eligible to apply.

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are** eligible to apply.

Foreign components, as [defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), **are** allowed.

# New NIH Biosketch Required

**All research applications are required to utilize the new NIH Biosketch format:**

See [NOT-OD-15-032](#) for general information and tools -- including instructions and a sample.

\*\*Further updates have been made to the NIH Biosketch instructions and are required for submission after May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Please see [NOT-OD-16-080](#) for more information.

Frequently asked questions are addressed at:

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq\\_biosketches.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm)

# Key Dates

	Pre-Application Webinar	Letter of Intent Due Dates	Application Due Dates	Review Dates	Earliest Anticipated Start Dates
Round 1	Apr 27, 2016	May 24, 2016	June 24, 2016	Oct/Nov 2016	Apr 2017
Round 2	<b>Oct 17, 2016</b>	<b>Oct 18, 2016</b>	<b>Nov 18, 2016</b>	<b>Mar/Apr 2017</b>	<b>Aug 2017</b>
Round 3	TBD, est Feb 2017	May 23, 2017	June 23, 2017	Oct/Nov 2017	Apr 2018
Round 4	TBD, est Aug 2017	Oct 24, 2017	Nov 24, 2017	Mar/Apr 2018	Aug 2018
Round 5	TBD, est Feb 2017	May 22, 2018	June 22, 2018	Oct/Nov 2018	Apr 2019
Round 6	TBD, est Aug 2017	Oct 23, 2018	Nov 23, 2018	Mar/Apr 2019	Aug 2019

# Letter of Intent (LOI)

Highly encouraged, but not required. Not binding and does not enter into review.

## Standard elements:

- Descriptive title of CSBC U01 Research Project
- Name(s), address(es), telephone number(s) of the PD(s)/PI(s)
- Names of other key personnel
- Participating Institution(s)
- Number and title of funding opportunity (PAR-16-131)

## Additional recommended information:

- **Provide a brief (3-5 sentence) description of the Research Project.**
- **Include relevant expertise and Keywords**

Email LOI to [shannon.hughes@nih.gov](mailto:shannon.hughes@nih.gov)

# Updated NIH Application Forms

See [NOT-OD-16-004](#) for details on new application forms (FORMS-D) that are required for applications with due dates of May 25, 2016 and beyond.

Link to FORMS-D annotated form set:

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/files/Annotated\\_Forms\\_General\\_FORMS-D.pdf](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/files/Annotated_Forms_General_FORMS-D.pdf)

A list of significant changes can be found at:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-d/general/g.120-significant-changes.htm>

# R&R Budget

Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The maximum project period is 5 years.

Appropriate **travel funds must be included** in the proposed budget to support travel for at least one CSBC Research Project PD/PI to the Annual CSBC Investigators Meeting.

**Note:** The number of awards is contingent upon NIH appropriations and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.

**Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the Research Project and **provide the rationale for the proposed systems biology approach**. *Within the Specific Aims, please state if the application addresses one of the topic areas highlighted in [Part 2, Section I](#).*

**Research Strategy:** Under standard sub-sections, address the following specific aspects:

- Explain how the proposed Research Project uses systems biology and/or integrated systems biology/population science approaches for research goals that could not be accomplished utilizing molecular, cellular, biochemical, or computational/mathematical approaches alone.
- Highlight any innovative systems biology methodologies utilized or developed within the context of the proposed research.
- Explain how the Research Project will contribute to the goals of the Cancer Systems Biology Consortium.

# PHS 398 Research Plan: *New Rigor & Reproducibility Standards*

All applications submitted after January 25, 2016 must address **Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility**. <http://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/index.htm#guidance>

*The “Resources” section includes examples and two videos about what to include in your application and how the new criteria will be reviewed.*

Scientific Premise, Scientific Rigor and Inclusion of Relevant Biological Variables must be addressed **within the 12 page** Research Plan.

Use the new attachment for Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources to address plans for authentication.

# NEW GRANT GUIDELINES

what you need to know

## WHY UPDATE THE GUIDELINES?

The updates focus on four areas deemed important for enhancing rigor and transparency:

1

### PREMISE

The scientific premise forming the basis of the proposed research

2

### DESIGN

Rigorous experimental design for robust and unbiased results

3

### VARIABLES

Consideration of relevant biological variables

4

### AUTHENTICATION

Authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources

Send inquiries to  
reproducibility@nih.gov

See also NIH Notice NOT-OD-16-011

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-011.html>

## WHAT ARE THE UPDATES?

### 1 UPDATES TO RESEARCH STRATEGY GUIDANCE

The research strategy is where you discuss the significance, innovation, and approach of your research plan. Let's look at an R01, for example:



Introduction to resubmission and revision applications



Specific aims



Research strategy



Commercialization plan



Biographical sketch

The new **research strategy** guidelines require that you:

- State the strengths and weakness of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application
- Describe how your experimental design and methods will achieve robust and unbiased results
- Explain how biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research design and provide justification if only one sex is used

### 2 NEW ATTACHMENT FOR AUTHENTICATION OF KEY BIOLOGICAL AND/OR CHEMICAL RESOURCES

From now on, you must briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.

These include, but are not limited to:



Standard laboratory reagents that are not expected to vary do not need to be included in the plan. Examples are buffers and other common biologicals or chemicals.

- DO NOT** put experimental methods or preliminary data in this section
- DO** focus on authentication and validation of key resources

### 3 NEW REVIEWER GUIDELINES

Here are the additional criteria the reviewers will be asked to use:

➔ Is there a **strong scientific premise** for the project?

➔ Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address **relevant biological variables**, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?

➔ Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a **robust and unbiased approach**, as appropriate for the work proposed?



Reviewers will also be asked to comment on that new attachment (see **Update 2!**)

# NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy

## [NIH GDS Policy](#) : NOT-OD-15-027

- Applies to applications submitted after January 25, 2015
- Covers wide range of genomic analyses across various experimental platforms and sample types (human and non-human)
- [NCI specific guidelines](#) for the number of samples that qualify as ‘large-scale’ data collection. Minimum threshold is met quickly given different combinations of patient samples, cell lines, time points, and chemical/therapeutic perturbations.
- Documentation to satisfy GDS policy is part of the standard Just-in-Time information so now is the correct time to determine if your work will fall under the policy.
- If applicable, generate a [Genomic Data Sharing Plan](#) and apply for [Institutional Certification](#).
- **Include a cover letter stating the GDS Policy applies to your application**

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by an appropriate Scientific Review Group convened by the NCI, using the stated review criteria.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications:

- May undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.
  - Note the applications will not be percentiled.
- Will receive a written critique.

Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this FOA. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the National Cancer Advisory Board.

The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.

(NEW) Applicants are encouraged to include a **PHS Assignment Request Form** with their application that includes information about:

- Potential **conflicts of interest**
- Areas of scientific **expertise needed** for a fair and knowledgeable review of the application
- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-d/general/g.600-phs-assignment-request-form.htm>

The **review panel roster** will be available in eRA Commons **30 days prior to review**. Applicants may contact the Scientific Review Officer with concerns prior to review.

# Agency Contacts: See FOA Section VII

## Scientific/Research Contacts:

Shannon Hughes, PhD  
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240-276-6224  
shannon.hughes@nih.gov

Rocky Feuer, PhD  
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences  
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## Peer Review Contact:

NCI Referral Officer  
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ncirefof@dea.nci.nih.gov

## Financial/Grants Management Contact:

Sean Hine  
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hines@mail.nih.gov

Slides will be posted at [www.csbconsortium.org](http://www.csbconsortium.org)



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