

**Pilot & Pre-Pilot Project Application**

**Calendar Year (CY) 2026**

***For CY 2026, the University of Vermont Cancer Center (UVMCC) Pilot Project Awards program can fund two pilot projects at up to $50,000 each, and two to three Pre-Pilot projects at up to $15,000 each.***

**Please use Arial 11 or 12 font throughout**

**Part A. Project Summary**

1. What is the **title** of the proposed research project?

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1. Please list[**Key Personnel**](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#Senior/KeyPersonnel), expanding or adding boxes as needed. **Principal Investigator(s) (PD/PI or co-PI) must be Full, Associate, Clinical, or Core Clinical** [**UVMCC Members**](http://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/members/members)**. Individual faculty may participate in only one grant submission**. Proposals from investigators whose applications for UVMCC Membership have been submitted but are pending will be provisionally accepted. Add or expand boxes as necessary.

| **Key Personnel**  [**Investigator**](http://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/core-facilities/genome-technologies) **Name & Degree(s)**  **(e.g., Jayne P. Smith, MD, PhD)** | **Department or Division, College, University (if not UVM), or other affiliation.** | [**Project Role**](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#Senior/KeyPersonnel) | [**Member Level**](http://www.med.uvm.edu/vtcancercenter/about/memberdirectory) | [**Program**](http://www.med.uvm.edu/vtcancercenter/about/memberdirectory) |
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1. Please provide a few **keywords or subject areas** that describe your research project. Use as many or as few as you feel will help in identifying the best qualified reviewers.

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1. Which type of grant are you applying for?

Pre-Pilot (up to $15,000)

Pilot (up to $50,000)

1. To which category does this proposal belong?

Basic Science

Clinical/Translational

Open Topic

Population Science

1. Is this a [Clinical Trial](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials/ct-decision&ved=2ahUKEwif4Lve26-NAxVNEFkFHb6CA-EQFnoECAoQAQ&usg=AOvVaw0olMfqG4OH0Gvz8SjVgRUI)?

Yes Clinical Trial staffing must be arranged through the Cancer Center’s Clinical Trials Office (CTO).

Please see items 11 & 20.

No

1. How much time is needed to complete the project?

One Year

Two Years (for projects requiring IRB approval only)

1. Prior recent funding: Have any of the Principal Investigators been awarded an intramural research grant in the last two years? If yes, please provide title, sponsor, project period, annual direct cost. If relevant to this project, provide a one or two sentence description of what the project accomplished.

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1. **Overlap:** Do any of the investigators have current or pending awards for this or similar research projects? If yes, please provide title, sponsor, project period, annual direct cost

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1. Will **regulatory approvals** be necessary? Approvals do not need to be in place at time of application but must be submitted to governing agencies within 30 days of Notice of Grant Award. Applicants are strongly urged to consult with relevant [**Translational Disciplinary Teams**](http://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/members/trans-disciplinary-teams-(tdts))for projects involving [**PRMC & IRB approvals**](https://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/members/protocol-review)**.**

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| Human Subjects (IRB & PRMC) |  |
| Live Vertebrate Animals (IACUC) |  |
| Human Embryonic Stem Cells |  |
| Infectious Agents or Toxins (IBC Biohazard) |  |
| Recombinant DNA (IBC Biohazards) |  |
| Radioactive Substances, Lasers, and/or X-rays |  |
| Hazardous Chemicals |  |
| Human or simian cells, tissue, blood or body fluids |  |

1. Will any [UVMCC Shared Resources](https://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/core-facilities/core-facilities) be used? Awarded funds cannot be used to support external services if these services are available at UVMCC. Please use the “Other Expenses” area of the budget page to show cost of these services and itemize by facility. Details of facility services should be described in the budget and budget justification. *Applicants are strongly cautioned to consult with facility heads early in the planning process, not less than four weeks prior to the deadline, to obtain the required approvals for facility usage and budget. Facilities cannot guarantee that they will be able to accommodate requests beyond this timeline.* Applicants are required to provide verification that the proposed project has been reviewed with facility heads (see item 20).

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| [Clinical Trials Office (CTO)](https://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/clinicaltrialsgroup/clinical-trials) (Clinical Research Coordinator staffing, regulatory support, translational specimen collection and/or oversight for clinical studies) **Contact:** [Christa Varnadoe-Rothman, DNP, MSN, AGNP-C, OCN, CCRP](mailto:christa.varnadoe@med.uvm.edu) |  |
| [Flow Cytometry](http://www.med.uvm.edu/flowcytometry/aboutflowcytometry) (state-of-the-art flow cytometry, scientific and technical consultation, experiment design, data analysis and interpretation). **Contact:** [Jonathan Boyson, PhD](mailto:jonathan.boyson@med.uvm.edu) |  |
| [Medical Biostatistics Unit](https://www.uvm.edu/biostatistics) (Biostatistics and epidemiology for biomedical and health-related research activities) **Contact:** [Peter Callas, PhD](mailto:pcallas@uvm.edu) |  |
| [Microscopy Imaging Center](http://med.uvm.edu/mic) (microscopy-based imaging systems, computers and software for image analysis; experimental design, tissue sectioning, sample preparation, data analysis and interpretation, and guidance) **Contact:**[Douglas Taatjes, PhD](mailto:douglas.taatjes@uvm.edu) |  |
| **Organoid Developing Shared Resource**  The Organoid Developing Shared Resource makes organoid technology available to and accessible to UVM Cancer Center Researchers. **Contact:** [Jon Ramsey, PhD](mailto:jeramsey@uvm.edu) |  |
| [Proteomics](https://vbrn.org/proteomics/) (mass spectrometry expertise and services) **Contact:** [Ying-Wai Lam, PhD](mailto:Ying-Wai.Lam@uvm.edu) |  |
| [Vermont Integrative Genomics Resource (VIGR)](https://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/core-facilities/vigr)  (DNA Analysis, Microarray, Massively Parallel Sequencing and Bioinformatics) **Contact:** [Julie Dragon, PhD](mailto:Julie.Dragon@uvm.edu) |  |

1. **Lay Summary:** Please provide a three or four sentence description of the proposed research that summarizes the focus and cancer relevance of the project in non-scientific terms such that might be used for a general interest announcement.

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1. **Abstract:** In one page or less, please summarize the cancer relevance & significance of the project, the specific aims & expected outcomes, and how the project will contribute to the development of a full research proposal for national, peer-reviewed funding. Please do not include any proprietary data or confidential information. If in doubt about what’s proprietary or confidential, please contact the UVM [Office of Technology Commercialization](https://www.uvm.edu/uvminnovations/) at [innovate@uvm.edu](mailto:innovate@uvm.edu).

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1. **Extramural funding plan:** include a clearly defined path to extramural funding by outlining which agencies and which funding programs you will target in subsequent extramural funding applications. Use specific opportunity number, CFDA, grant mechanism (e.g., R01), and funding agency whenever possible.

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**Part B. Project Description**

1. **Specific Aims** (limit to one page)

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1. **Research Strategy** (*limit to five pages for Pilot proposals and two pages for Pre-Pilot proposals*). Research Strategy should include background, significance, and any translational or inter-programmatic components, and should address the following:

* Significance
  + Identify the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
  + Identify how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields
  + Identify how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
* Innovation
  + Describe how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
  + Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.
  + Describe any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions
* Approach
  + Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
  + Describe and address the potential problems.
  + Describe any strategy to establish feasibility and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work if the project is in the early stages of development.
  + Address any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to other research associates and identify the precautions to be taken
  + Describe the preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application. Identify the potential, problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. Include a description of future directions for your research, as well as a project timeline.

*In all cases, but in particular for more narrow areas of scientific expertise, it is the responsibility of the applicant to clearly explain the proposed research in such a way that it will be fully understood by any member of the review committee. “The reviewers didn’t understand my proposal” represents a failure on the part of the applicant to adequately present the proposed research.*

**Insert Research Strategy here**

***(Limit to five pages for Pilot proposals and two pages for Pre-Pilot proposals; use Arial 11 or 12 font only.)***

1. **Literature citations (limit to one page)**

**Insert Literature citations here (limit to one page)**

1. **Budget** – please use the Budget and Budget Justification templates on the following pages. Please ask your business or finance administrator, consult [NIH Budget Development Guidelines](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/develop-your-budget.htm#personnel), or contact [edward.north@med.uvm.edu](mailto:edward.north@med.uvm.edu?subject=LCCRO%20Pilot%20Project%20Application-BUDGET) if you have questions about how to complete the budget sections. Please see Pilot Project guidelines at the UVMCC [Intramural Funding Web Page](http://www.med.uvm.edu/uvmcancercenter/research/intramural-funding) for a list of allowable and unallowable expenses.

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| Program Director/Principal Investigator (Last, First, Middle): |  | | |
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| DETAILED BUDGET FOR BUDGET PERIODDIRECT COSTS ONLY | | FROM | THROUGH |
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List PERSONNEL *(Applicant organization only)*

Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project

Enter Dollar Amounts Requested *(omit cents)* for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

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| NAME | ROLE ON PROJECT | Cal.  Mnths | Acad.  Mnths | Summer  Mnths | | INST.BASE SALARY | SALARY REQUESTED | FRINGE BENEFITS | | TOTAL |
|  | PD/PI |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
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| SUBTOTALS | | | | | | |  |  | |  |
| CONSULTANT COSTS (**NB: EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS NOT PERMITTED)** | | | | | | | | | |  |
| EQUIPMENT-(up To $10,000) *(Itemize)* | | | | | | | | | |  |
| SUPPLIES *(Itemize by category)* | | | | | | | | | |  |
| TRAVEL | | | | | | | | | |  |
| INPATIENT CARE COSTS | | | | | | | | | |  |
| OUTPATIENT CARE COSTS | | | | | | | | | |  |
| ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS *(Itemize by category)* **NA** | | | | | | | | | |  |
| OTHER EXPENSES *(Itemize by category)* | | | | | | | | | |  |
| CONSORTIUM/CONTRACTUAL COSTS **NA** | | | | | DIRECT COSTS | | | |  | |
| SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD | | | | | | | | | $ |  |
| FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS **NA** | | | | |  | | | |  | |
| TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD | | | | | | | | | $ |  |

1. **BUDGET JUSTIFICATION** (expand boxes as needed)**:**

**Personnel**

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**Consultants (NB: external consultants not permitted)**

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**Equipment (up to $10,000)**

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**Supplies**

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**Domestic travel directly related to the aims of the project (one trip, up to $2,000)**

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**Inpatient Care Costs**

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**Outpatient Care Costs**

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**Other Expenses**

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1. **Facility Head approval**

By signing below, the Facility Head affirms that the described facility involvement and timeline have been reviewed and services are properly budgeted. Please expand or add boxes as needed. **Separate signature pages may be inserted as needed for each Facility Head.**

| **Facility Name** | **Facility Head’s Name** | **Date** |
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| **Signature** |
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| Signature: |
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| Signature: |

1. **Please provide** [**NIH format Biosketches**](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm) **for each of the Key Personnel.** Please limit the Biosketches to no more than five pages each.
2. **Letters of Collaboration and Letters of Support** may be included but aren’t required.

**Go to** [**https://uvm.infoready4.com/**](https://uvm.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1943079) **to submit your application in PDF format.**