

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Claudia Adams Barr Program in Cancer Research

### Innovative Basic Science Research Program

#### BACKGROUND

J. Wayne and Delores B. Weaver established the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Cancer Research in 1987, in memory of Mrs. Weaver's mother, Claudia Adams Barr. The primary intent of the Claudia Adams Barr Program is to provide funding to DFCI investigators for the development of innovative basic research projects that have not yet received any external peer-reviewed grant support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or similar sources. For this round, applications for Barr Awards are being considered

#### BARR AWARDS

##### BASIC CRITERIA

Barr Awards are designed to support research projects that are *innovative and address fundamental questions related to cancer*. The request for funds should be limited to support for the initiation of the study and generation of preliminary data needed to submit grant applications for external funding. Translational research in theoretical and model systems, both animal and human, qualifies for support.

##### Barr Awards are intended to provide support for:

- Initial research project support for new independent investigators<sup>1</sup>.
- A new and distinct line of research not currently funded by other sources of support:  
*Senior faculty must address the orthogonal nature of their proposal in section II.C.*
- Development of preliminary data or model systems that would form the basis for successful grant applications to external funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health.
- Development of new technologies as part of a hypothesis-based research project.
- Pilot funding to pursue an unexpected research opportunity that has led to new directions.
- Application of high tech resources (e.g. RNAi, genomics, proteomics, chemical biology, advanced imaging techniques, etc.) to a new or existing line of investigation.
- Development of novel model systems or generation of data needed to better formulate a testable hypothesis when justified by the significance of the project.

##### ELIGIBILITY

Established DFCI junior and senior investigators are encouraged to apply. Senior postdoctoral fellows who are within 1-2 years of independence and are conducting independent research on a project that has not achieved external funding in that laboratory may also apply. Only one application for a Barr Award per lab may be submitted for consideration. Labs with existing Barr Awardees are eligible to apply for non-concurrent support: applications may be submitted for review and will either be deferred to the next round or, if awarded, will receive funding when the prior award is closed.

Applicants who are not eligible for Barr Program funding include Scientist-track investigators and investigators *below* the level of independent Assistant Professor, who currently receive Career Development Awards, such as K awards. Awards are not available to investigators who already receive substantial funding from the Institute.

No previous Barr investigator shall be allowed to have a subsequent Barr Award unless there is clear and compelling justification for moving into a new and different area of research that has not yet been

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals recruited following an international open search who hold dedicated research space at DFCI

supported by external grant funding.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

- Applicants at the rank of Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor and mentored Assistant Professor must submit a letter of support from their lab supervisor/mentor attesting to their level of independence and projected career trajectory toward complete independence, along with the mentor's CV or Biosketch and Other Support.
- All applications must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the applicant's Department Chair indicating understanding and support of the goals of the application. For senior postdocs, instructors, and dependent Assistant Professors, this supporting letter should also include a statement of the career expectations for the applicant.

## **AWARD AND BUDGET GUIDELINES**

Barr Awards are made for a period of up to two years. Very focused, preliminary studies that could be accomplished in less than 2 years' time may be proposed for one year only. Only under exceptional circumstances will a project be considered for a one-year funded extension

Annual budgets should generally range from \$100,000-150,000 direct costs per year plus 20% indirect costs. Initial support for new Independent Investigators<sup>1</sup> may range from \$150,000 – \$200,000 direct costs per year plus 20% indirect costs. All budgets must be fully justified.

Applications should be brief and address the items listed in the attached guidelines. The Claudia Adams Barr Program will make awards based on the results of its peer review process. As the Barr Program Review Committee is not expert in all areas of research, applicants should make special effort to clearly describe the project in a manner understandable to a scientist not working directly in the specific subject area of the proposal. Further, the goals of the project should be realistic given the one- or two-year performance period. In this regard, a photocopy of an application to a national agency for multi-year funding does not constitute an appropriate application for this program.

Funding will commence on **July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**, which should be used as the start date for budget purposes. If you wish to defer the funding start date, please indicate a preferred start date in the application, and provide a justification. All applications must be submitted with the approval of the respective Department Chair.

## **AWARDEE OBLIGATIONS**

Awardees must agree to cite the support of the "Claudia Adams Barr Program for Innovative Cancer Research" in all publications and oral presentations. Failure to do so may result in loss of unexpended funds and prohibition from receiving future Barr Program funds.

In addition, at the conclusion of the award period, awardees must provide a summary of their research activities performed under the auspices of this award. The summary should include outcomes of the specific aims described in the original grant application along with a description of new areas of research that the awardee may have undertaken based on those outcomes and the findings in those new areas. The summary should also include reprints or PDFs of all publications that arose from work funded by this award. Summaries may be sent to [BARR@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:BARR@dfci.harvard.edu).

## CLAUDIA ADAMS BARR PROGRAM IN CANCER RESEARCH

### Application Guidelines For Barr Awards

- I Completed Institutional Cover Sheet <sup>2</sup>
- II PROPOSAL (**not to exceed 3 pages total**, excluding literature cited):
  - A. **Title of Proposal, Investigator's Name and Department**
  - B. Background and Significance
  - C. Preliminary Data (*if available*)
  - D. Specific Aims
  - E. Research Plan
  - F. Relevance to Cancer and the Barr Program (1-2 sentences)
- III BUDGET
  - A. Personnel (including fringe benefits)
  - B. Consultants
  - C. Equipment
  - D. Supplies
  - E. Travel (domestic only)
  - F. Other
  - G. Core chargebacks (unsubsidized rates)
  - H. Indirect Costs (**20% MTDC**)
- IV Budget Justification
- V Abstract in Layman's terms
- VI Curriculum Vitae of Applicant(s)  
(*include CV or Biosketch of Lab Director, if the Barr Award applicant is a Sr. Postdoc, Instructor or mentored Asst. Professor*)
- VII Other Support for Applicant(s), including annual direct costs  
(*include Other Support of Lab Director, if the Barr Award applicant is a Sr. Postdoc, Instructor or mentored Assistant Professor*)
- VIII Letter of support from Department Chair (and mentor, if appropriate)

**APPLICATIONS FOR THIS CYCLE ARE DUE MONDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5PM**  
**Please submit all components of the application as a single pdf to [BARR@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:BARR@dfci.harvard.edu).**

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<sup>2</sup> DFCI Cover Sheet may be obtained [here](#)