

CUCCS 2010

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS

Pisa University contribution: € 800,000 for 3 years

The Center for Clinical Use of Stem Cells (CUCCS) of the University of Pisa (Italy), financed by the Tuscany Region, is issuing a call for proposals in the field of translational research on MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS.

Proposals are expected to be co-financed, collaborative, integrated research projects focusing on innovative solutions potentially effective in a translational perspective.

Call, guidelines and application forms are provided on the web:
[HTTP://WWW.UNIPI.IT/ATENEO/BANDI/INDEX.HTM](http://www.unipi.it/ateneo/bandi/index.htm)

The selection of proposals is carried out by the University of Pisa via the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the CUCCS.

The overall budget is € 800.000 over 3 years and a maximum of 4 project will be funded.

The budget will be assigned on year basis, depending on the funding approved and after reporting of the achievements to the STC of CUCCS.

For projects that will not achieve the expected results yearly funding will be stopped.

Proposals must be submitted by regular mail (to the attention of Dr. Vincenzo Tedesco, University of Pisa, Lungarno Pacinotti 43, 56126 Pisa, Italy) and E.MAIL (TO DR. LAURA MANCA AT L.MANCA@MED.UNIPI.IT).

Proposals are accepted if submitted before 18.00 p.m (central time) March 8, 2010.

ABSTRACT

The abstract (in Italian and English) describes briefly all major aspects of the proposed project except the budget.

Length: maximum 400 words in each language

Content

The abstract should include:

- a brief background of the project;
- specific aims or hypotheses;
- the unique features of the project;

methodology with yearly action steps;

- expected results;
- indicators for each step evaluation;

how the results will affect other research areas;
translational impact on clinical practice;

BACKGROUND

The background should describe the problem to be investigated, the rationale for the proposed research, the current state of knowledge relevant to the proposal and the potential contribution of the research to the problem(s) addressed.

Length: maximum 400 words without citations

Content: The background section should cover:

- the rationale for the proposed project;

the state of existing knowledge, including literature citations (up to 5) and highlights of relevant data;

gaps that the project is intended to fill

SPECIFIC AIMS

The proposal should describe concisely what the proposed research is intended to accomplish.

Length: maximum 800 words

Content: The specific aims should cover:

- broad, long-term goals;
- how the project will proceed from basic evidence to clinics,

specific time-phased research objectives.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

The “research design and method” section describes how the research will be carried out.

Avoid excessive experimental detail by referring to publications that describe the methods to be employed. *Publications cited should include work by the applicants.*

Length: maximum 5000 words

Content: The research design and methods section should include the following:

- an overview of the experimental design;

a detailed description of specific methods to be employed to accomplish the specific aims;
a detailed discussion of the way in which the results will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted;
a projected sequence or timetable (yearly work plan) of the project steps including the description of the expected results at each year step;
a description of any new methodology used and why it represents an improvement over the existing ones;
a discussion of potential difficulties and limitations and how these will be overcome or mitigated;
expected results, and alternative approaches that will be used if unexpected results are found;
precautions to be exercised with respect to any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel or human subjects.

BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

The budget and justification should present and justify all expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives.

Content: The budget and justification should cover the following:

- personnel;

consultants;
equipment;

supplies;
travel; and

- other expenses, e.g., animal maintenance.