Thank you for your interest in the 2023 Moores Cancer Center Scientific Retreat! Continuing on the success of past years’ retreats, the objectives of this year’s retreat are to: 1) participate in shaping the future of the MCC, 2) establish new collaborations, 3) learn about the amazing science and progress, 4) celebrate our accomplishments and recognize our team members, and 5) have fun. We hope that this year’s Program will accomplish all objectives, with a format that includes structured and unstructured meetings. The Program Committee has also proposed that we stimulate transdisciplinary thinking and inter-programmatic collaborations across the CCSG by offering **pilot project award(s) of up to $50,000**. A review committee will decide the number of projects funded. As done in past years, we will use a Shark Tank format. Here is how it will work.

**Eligibility:** MCC members who are Assistant or Associate Professors from UCSD and consortium partner institutions (SDSU and LJI) are eligible to apply. Applicants must be members of the MCC CCSG program and must attend the 2023 Scientific Retreat. (Contact Divya Subramonian with any eligibility questions, MCCGrants@health.ucsd.edu)

**Pre-retreat:**

**Application:** Complete and submit the one-page application form found in this portal [https://ucsd.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1914929](https://ucsd.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1914929) by 5:00 pm on **October 6, 2023**. The application must present a project not formerly proposed for the Shark Tank competition. We encourage you to seek collaborations between any of the MCC CCSG programs. The research project should have the following elements: 1) a minimum of 2 principal investigators [maximum of 3] who are all Assistant or Associate Professors and members of MCC CCSG Research Programs; 2) a transdisciplinary theme; 3) a research area that exploits the unique strengths of MCC and our CCSG-consortium partners; 4) a plan that can be accomplished in 1 year with a high likelihood of subsequent external peer-reviewed funding or near term clinical trial.

**Review:** A pilot project review committee will review the one-page application and select up to 7 applicants to participate in the Shark Tank-like defense of the projects on the day of the retreat. Selected applicants for the presentations will be notified on or before **October 13, 2023**.

**Retreat:**

**Presentation and Defense:** For the selected applicants, we will hold a Shark Tank-like defense of the projects, called Jawsome Shark Tank (JST). PIs of each proposal will have up to 4 minutes to summarize their project for the audience and JST review panel, followed by 3 minutes of questions and comments from the review panel. The presentation format is open, but if PIs choose to present slides, they are encouraged to limit their presentation to 2-3 slides.

**Review:** During the Retreat, the JST pilot project review panel will review and score the one-page application in conjunction with the JST presentation. The review criteria will be: significance of the research, translational aspects of the project; impact the project will have on MCC’s Strategic Plan, COE, cancers in the catchment area; collaborations, transdisciplinary aspects, uniqueness/innovation; likelihood of success within the 1-year timeframe; likelihood that the project will directly lead to future funding.

**Award Conditions:** The winner(s) will be announced at the end of the retreat. Winners will need to be present during the retreat to receive the award. Prior to receiving funding, the winner(s) will be required to submit a standard MCC pilot grant form and an institutional Letter of Support indicating that for the awarded project, the institution will waive all indirect costs. Each PI's budget must be a minimum of 30% of the total grant allocation (e.g., for the 50K grant, each PI's budget needs to be at least 15K). Funding will be made available in December 2023, once all required documentation is submitted and approved. Good luck and have fun!

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1Definition of Transdisciplinary Research: Collaborations in which exchanging information, altering discipline-specific approaches, sharing resources, and integrating different disciplines achieves a common scientific goal. The term ‘trans-disciplinary’ refers to integrated (not specific to a discipline) research methods, conceptual development, multiple levels of analysis, and science that produces new models and understanding exceeding the sum of the parts.