PURPOSE OF AWARD:

INTRODUCTION: The V Foundation is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity in pediatric cancer immunology or pediatric cancer immunotherapy. Advances in cancer immunology research have led to recent unprecedented successes of immunotherapy in the clinic. We are seeking proposals that will further advance knowledge on the mechanisms driving anti-cancer immunity, including work on tumor antigens, immune biomarkers and the tumor immune microenvironment which may have future translational value.

We welcome proposals of preclinical research/translational research that supports new approaches to immunotherapy and immune-prevention of cancer, specifically in pediatric cancer research. We are interested in various immunotherapy/cancer immunology research questions as applied to pediatric cancer, including: biomarker research for stratification, biomarker validation research, combination of checkpoint inhibitors with vaccines. We encourage cross disciplinary research, including expertise from other disciplines (for example: bioinformatics, computational scientists, or engineers) as applicable to the research. Grants will be awarded through the Translational Award grant mechanism.

Translational projects should move a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or use specimens from a clinical trial to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. The research should apply in some direct way to human beings within the time frame of less than 5 years. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set or independent clinical trial is essential. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal. The endpoint of the project should be the planning or initiation of a new clinical trial. The Award is a three-year grant of $200,000 per year. A maximum of 10% indirect costs (within the award amount) are supported in the Award. NIH salary caps are observed.

WHO MAY APPLY? Each invited institution may nominate one applicant.

Eligibility Criteria for Nominated Applicants: Grant applicants must be nominated by their Cancer Center Director or designee (see below).

Nominated applicants who will lead the research team must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to submit an application:

- The nominee must be nominated by their Cancer Center Director if the research institution is a cancer center. If the research institution is not a cancer center, then the provost, dean or other senior research administrative official who is responsible for the internal nominee selection process may make the nomination. Please do not share this invitation outside of your institution. We do not review unsolicited applications and will only accept one nominee per invited institution.
- Applicant must be employed at a US non-profit research institution (e.g. 501c3, Section 170).
By the Due Date of the Application, applicants who will lead this research team must have all the following:

- Be scientists who hold a faculty position at their cancer research institution. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination to lead the Translational Research Team.
- Applicants must be either US Citizens or have a legal permit to work in the USA (either temporary or permanent).

**NEXT STEPS TO NOMINATE YOUR APPLICANT:**

Complete the attached Nomination Information Form for your Lead PI and email BOTH Nomination form and LOI to kowoeye@jimmyv.org by 5:00 PM EDT on June 2, 2017. The nomination form includes the signature of the Cancer Center Director (or similar high ranking research official if there is no cancer center director) who is responsible for the nomination and ensuring that the candidate meets all eligibility requirements. Along with the Nomination form, please also email the nominee’s Letter of Intent with cover page. See attached LOI cover page form for details.

**LOI review and Full Application process:** Applicants will be issued log in credentials to submit their full applications on-line. Please provide sufficient detail (key words) in LOI to identify reviewer expertise needed.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Nomination form and LOI Due Date:** by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on June 2, 2017

Please email completed Nomination Form and Nominee’s LOI to kowoeye@jimmyv.org.

**Timeline:**

- Nomination forms and LOI Due: June 2, 2017.
- Full Applications due: July 15, 2017.
- Grant Start dates: November 1, 2017.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact me or Kameko Owoeye, Grants Coordinator, at kowoeye@jimmyv.org, for assistance. We are delighted to extend this invitation and look forward to receiving your nomination and letter of intent.

Best Wishes,

Carole

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