

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for
CTD² Network Pre-application Teleconference for RFA-CA-12-006**

- Q: How much should applicants learn about what the existing CTD² Network members are doing in preparing their own proposals?
- A: Each applicant should emphasize their own strength(s) and emphasize what they can contribute to a network, not necessarily to the existing network. In addition, during the negotiation process if there is too much overlap, there will be a possibility for discussion.
- Q: What are the criteria for chemical probes that can be included in the proposal? Will they be the most recent chemical probe criteria used by NCGC, the chemical probe network?
- A: The PI will need to define what they mean by chemical probes. They can reference documents as found in PubChem and others.
- Q: Will there be reviewers on the study section who will be cognizant of what a chemical probe is?
- A: Yes. An advantage of having a Special Emphasis Panel of reviewers is that the panel is assembled in such a way that it is geared towards the expertise that is required for the individual applications. Thus, if applicants propose to use probes in their studies, then there will be reviewers who have knowledge regarding probes.
- Q: If a PI submitted an application in response to the previous CTD² RFA and it was not funded, should they submit their proposal for the current CTD² RFA as a response or a new application?
- A: They should submit a new application. No responses are needed.
- Q: Does the RFA require that proposals investigate a specific application to a specific tumor type or a general application to any tumor type?
- A: The RFA was written with the expectation that the existing and future large-scale genomic datasets (currently, 5 pediatric and at least 10 adult tumors) will be mined. If your preliminary data suggests that your approach is applicable to multiple tumor types within this context, then that would be acceptable.
- Q: What type of model are you looking for in the grant application with respect to the use of established cell lines?
- A: Per the RFA, the cell lines that can be proposed are those that have been molecularly characterized and the characterization indicates that they have a pattern of changes and behave like the corresponding primary tumors. There must be a correlation between the molecular changes in the cell lines proposed and the changes found in primary tumors. There is concern that

many cell lines, such as HeLa, have accumulated a number of changes over time that are independent of what drives the tumor in vivo.

- Q: With respect to trans-network capabilities, how much detail should proposals include regarding potential pilot projects that would engage interest across the network?
- A: Per the RFA, it is not expected that applicants know what others that will be submitting grants are doing. Applicants' proposals should, however, indicate what are their unique strengths and how they could interact with other groups. Specific examples are not expected to be included in the proposal; just the willingness to collaborate and examples of what collaborations are possible.
- Q: Does a budget with justification need to accompany the proposed pilot projects or is it sufficient to provide just the intellectual intent to conduct pilot projects?
- A: Per the RFA, in year one a minimum of 10% of the budget should be allocated for pilot projects. By the end of the project term, up to 50% of the budget can be allocated as long as it is justified.
- Q: Are applicants whose proposals were on the funding border in the previous CTD² RFA submission encouraged to apply to the current RFA?
- A: NCI makes no value judgments. Anyone who is interested and believes they have unique capabilities relevant to the RFA is encouraged to apply.