

TCE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility:

How many Principal Investigators (PIs) are permitted? *Up to two PIs are allowed. A rationale for the leadership team should be presented in brief.*

Do the Principal Investigators need to be members of the Abramson Cancer Center (ACC)? *At least one of the PIs must be a current member of the ACC.*

What other qualifications must the Principal Investigator(s) have? *Penn faculty member with a proven track record leading interdisciplinary and translational research is encouraged.*

With whom can I collaborate on a TCE? Can other Schools at Penn or Other Institutions be involved? *Involvement of multiple departments and schools at UPenn is encouraged. Under exceptional circumstances in which particular expertise or resources is not represented at UPenn, partnering with non-Penn entities is permitted. However, applicants are encouraged to identify and/or recruit individuals at Penn for involvement in the TCE in order to build infrastructure at Penn.*

Can multiple cancer types be the focus of a TCE? *In circumstances where there is a strong scientific and/or clinical rationale for studying multiple (related) cancers, such TCEs will be considered.*

Can a TCE focus on a rare cancer? *In circumstances where a broad scientific and clinical impact beyond the specific rare cancer can be expected, such TCEs will be considered.*

Can TCEs include epidemiology, behavioral science, or survivorship research? *Yes.*

Can the TCE build on a successful SPORE or P01? *Yes, if the work proposed clearly represents an innovative new direction, rather than a mere enhancement of ongoing efforts.*

Submission and Review:

What is the deadline for submission of the letter of Intent? Will any extensions be granted? *The deadline is February 20th at 5pm EDT. Extensions will NOT be granted.*

Who will review the letters of intent? Will this be a site visit type review? *Letters of intent will be reviewed by outside experts including, but not limited to, members of the ACC External Scientific Advisory Board.*

When will I get a decision about the initial Letter of Intent? *Decisions about Phase I of the review are anticipated before June 2012 (see details in the RFA).*

Will I receive a critique? *Yes. Summaries of the critiques will be made available by July 2012.*

Should I include an internal or external advisory board? *This is not necessary for inclusion in the initial Letter of Intent. However, this may be encouraged for TCEs selected for further development.*

Infrastructure and Services

How can I obtain information about core facilities or patient populations that is relevant to the application? *Please contact Barbara Vance at vanceb@mail.med.upenn.edu.*

If there is a core technology that is needed but not well represented on campus, how should this be handled? *Applicants are encouraged to utilize ACC Core facilities wherever possible. If a particular service is not currently available, plans to develop technology for expanding ACC Cores, or potentially establishing new Cores, would be reviewed favorably.*

If a TCE discovery leads to a clinical trial, will this be managed by the ACC? *Applicants are encouraged to utilize the relevant ACC Cores for management of clinical trials (e.g., Clinical Research Unit; Recruitment Outcomes and Assessment Resource; Biostatistics Resource). The costs of trial management (beyond the subsidy provided by the ACC Core grant) will likely be considered within the budget of the TCE.*

Will there be "central" administration and infrastructure to support the administrative aspects of operating a TCE? *The ACC Office of Research Administration and Finance will provide administrative and budgetary oversight for the TCEs. The details of these arrangements will be clarified during the second phase of the TCE review for selected applications.*

Budgets and Funding

What is the allowable budget and funding period for a TCE? *Budgets are not being requested as part of the initial letter of intent. However, it is anticipated that the budget of a successful TCE application will be ~ 3 million dollars over 3 years. The specific funding plan will be developed with applicants selected for the second phase of the review (see details in the RFA).*

Are there specific milestones that have to be met to get the next year of funding? *Yes. Milestones and time lines should be included in the letter of intent, as described in the RFA. For applicants selected for the second phase of the review, it is expected that these milestones will be adapted and finalized.*

If my application is not accepted, can I reapply in future years? *Yes. In addition, compelling components of unfunded TCEs may be seeded with ACC funds for further development.*