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## **RE: Announcement for New Member Institution Applications**

***The Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium (PBTC) is pleased to announce open, competitive applications for new member institutions.***

Our mission is to contribute rapidly and effectively to the understanding and cure of CNS tumors in children through multidisciplinary, innovative studies based on tumor biology and high-quality statistical science. PBTC's 11 full member institutions are supported by the National Cancer Institute through the Cancer Therapy Evaluations Program (CTEP). Newly applying centers will be considered for membership based upon criteria outlined below. Up to five institutions will be asked to join the Consortium with NCI support.

Institutions qualifying for PBTC membership should demonstrate exceptional expertise in pediatric brain tumors with the ability to deliver coordinated multidisciplinary clinical care and conduct relevant laboratory research. Institutions must be based in the United States or Canada and must be members of the Children's Oncology Group. Applicants will be required to demonstrate:

- **Clinical and Investigational Competency**, amongst members of a coordinated brain tumor team, including pediatric neuro-oncologists, neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists, neuroradiologists and neuropathologists.
- **Strong Neuroimaging Clinical and Research Expertise and State-of-the-Art Equipment**, with high quality MRI and PET/CT.
- **Adequate Patient Accrual**, to enroll 10-12 patients/year to Phase I-II trials based upon *current* levels of CNS tumor patients  $\leq 21$  years old seen at the institution, newly diagnosed and recurrent. Demonstrable track record of enrolling patients on Phase I-II studies.
- **Clinical Trial and Laboratory Expertise** sufficient for protocol development and performance, including evidence of development and completion of clinical and correlative projects (in brain tumor biology and/or neuroimaging).
- **Academic Commitment to the Consortium**, with genuine commitments from investigators to engage in the goals and research of the Consortium, including those in clinical neuro-oncology disciplines and in translational research (i.e., neuropathology, molecular or tumor biology, and/or advanced neuroimaging). PBTC Member institutions are expected to prioritize PBTC trials above all others.
- **Proficient Data Handling**, with provisions for adequate personnel and resources for data collection, management, and electronic transmission.
- **Processing of Protocol-Required Specimens**, with willingness to collect and ship appropriate pharmacologic and biologic specimens for patients entered on protocol.
- **Established Clinical Trial and Research Administration Infrastructure**, to support early phase pediatric clinical studies including adequate research nurse and CRA support as well as regulatory, legal/contracting and administrative experience.
- **Human Subject Protection**, with provisions for protection of human subjects and inclusions of minorities and females.

Using the above criteria, institutions will be chosen to be members of the PBTC based upon the following prioritized selection criteria:

- 1) The ability to enhance the scientific expertise of the PBTC through applications of translational science and the exploration of new therapeutic agents and approaches,
- 2) The ability to increase patient accrual on PBTC studies, including Phase II trials, and
- 3) The ability to enhance Consortium accrual by making PBTC studies available to patients in geographic regions not currently well served by the present PBTC institutions.

Please note that application for new membership requires submission of both the application form and a brief protocol concept for a Phase I or II study that may be suitable for development through the PBTC. The application form and instructions for the protocol concept can be found at [www.pbtc.org](http://www.pbtc.org) under the **New Member Application** button. Please send the completed membership application and the protocol concept to Arzu Onar-Thomas at [arzu.onar@stjude.org](mailto:arzu.onar@stjude.org) by **15 May 2020**. Please also include institutional support letters as appropriate and the biosketches of the investigators who will serve as the PBTC site PI and co-PI as well as any other key personnel who may play prominent roles in your institution's activities within the PBTC.

For additional information regarding consideration of membership, please contact Ira Dunkel, MD, Chair ([dunkeli@mskcc.org](mailto:dunkeli@mskcc.org)), Jason Fangusaro, MD, Vice-Chair ([jfangus@emory.edu](mailto:jfangus@emory.edu)) or Arzu Onar-Thomas, PhD, Executive Director of the Operations Biostatistics and Data Management Core ([arzu.onar@stjude.org](mailto:arzu.onar@stjude.org)). Applicants will be notified of the results of the competitive review by August, 2020; new member institutions will officially become part of the PBTC shortly thereafter.

New Member Institution Timelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications due Friday, 15 May 2020</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final selection and notification of new member institutions by August 2020</li></ul>