

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS (RFP) IN CANINE CANCER PREVENTION

August 2007

To date, Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) has funded over 100 canine cancer research studies. Scientists are now asking the Foundation to fund multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional studies (i.e., larger grants than our traditional cancer studies) to more rapidly advance knowledge for treating and preventing canine cancer. This RFP calls for studies in canine cancer prevention. Based on information received from an advisory panel of cancer researchers convened in April 2007, and thanks to a generous gift from the Golden Retriever Foundation, MAF is especially interested in cancers involving Golden Retrievers. The Foundation is also interested in studies that are able to train future researchers in cancer prevention.

The specific goal of the prevention initiative is to promote and translate advances in canine genomics, basic research, and epidemiology into prevention and improved therapy of cancer in dogs through:

1. Early detection of important cancers in dogs by screening of high risk populations. Such populations can be breeds of dogs at high risk of a cancer or subgroups of dogs within specific breeds that have some combination of genetic markers, epidemiological risk factors, or environmental exposures for a specific cancer. Early screening can be coupled with intervention to demonstrate that treatment of a cancer earlier using currently available therapies can significantly extend the life of dogs while maintaining an acceptable quality of life. Randomized trials may be needed to evaluate the effectiveness of early detection and treatment.
2. Identification of environmental and lifestyle risk factors for important canine cancers and when possible, characterize how these risk factors interact with genetic determinants to affect cancer risk using observational epidemiological studies
3. Early detection of dogs at high risk of cancer coupled with prevention (dietary, diet supplementation, drug treatment, environmental modification, or novel approaches) to demonstrate a significant decrease in cancer morbidity and mortality using rigorous clinical trial methodology.

Important cancers are defined by MAF as those with high incidence and poor survival rates in dogs in general or in specific dog breeds. In this RFP, the cancer would need to have significance for Golden Retrievers. Examples include but are not limited to lymphoma and hemangiosarcoma.

The proposed studies should be multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional in nature and utilize the collective expertise of basic scientists, epidemiologists, and clinicians. The Principal Investigator should be an established researcher with a proven track record of productivity in laboratory or population-based veterinary cancer research, or other relevant research that positions a team to develop novel approaches for cancer prevention. Postdoctoral fellows, clinical residents, graduate students, and veterinary students may be funded to participate in the research if it constitutes a scientific component of their training program. Research proposals should be hypothesis driven or exploratory in nature with convincing promise for identifying new genetic and environmental risk factors or utilizing recently identified risk factors to contribute to a better understanding of biological mechanisms for cancer development, progression, or treatment. Identification of novel methods for the early detection of cancer is encouraged.

A requirement of funded investigators is that biological samples including DNA and medical data from patients included in the proposed research be archived and saved using mutually acceptable protocols so they can be shared with other researchers. Projects should demonstrate integration and synergy of knowledge and resources. Each grant proposal will be funded for a period of up to 5 years contingent on satisfactory progress and will be reviewed annually. The maximum allowable indirect cost rate is 8%. The total amount available for this five-year study is \$500,000 - \$1,000,000. Morris Animal Foundation does not pay for capital equipment, travel to scientific meetings, or salaries for faculty appointed to regular/tenure tract, full-time, full-salaried positions. Salaries may be requested for technicians, residents, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and other support staff needed for relevant epidemiologic/clinical studies based on their percentage of time involved in the study.

Application Guidelines

1. Deadline: Morris Animal Foundation must receive one electronic copy emailed to grantapplications@morrisanimalfoundation.org, and two hard copies, one original with original signatures and one photocopy, by **January 1, 2008**. Our mailing address will be changing – please visit www.morrisanimalfoundation.org after November 1, 2007, for the new mailing address.
2. Follow the 2007 Established Investigator submission guidelines, available at http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/reports/grants/full_proposal/Established_Investigator_guidelines.pdf. You will not have an assigned grant ID number at the time of submission so disregard the request to list this. Also please disregard all due dates listed in these guidelines – the due date for this RFP is January 1, 2008.

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