RFP in Nanomedicine - Frequently Asked Questions

- *What is the definition of 'nano' for this RFP? Is 100 nm a hard number? For instance, 100-200 nm is the sweet spot (sometimes) for microscopy.*

We are using the NIH and NSF definition of 'nano': typically 100nm or less, and with a specific function enabled by the small size. This definition includes nanoscale carriers used for delivery, so long as they are manufactured (as opposed to commercially obtained).

- *What is the appropriate level of 'high risk'? Are you specifically looking for high-risk proposals?*

We intend to have a portfolio with various amounts of risk; the emphasis will be on potentially high impact projects. The goal is to win NIH funding, so this RFP should bridge from concept stage to preliminary results. We would like to eventually pull together a few proposals funded by this RFP into a coherent program.

- *If our proposed high-risk approach is obviously not working in the initial stages of the project, should we spend all the allocated funds anyway?*

No, the expectation is that the funds will be returned to the pool, and reallocated.

- *How does this program view 'translation'?*

We view it as pushing towards clinical relevance. If a proposal is not relevant to healthcare, it would not qualify. We are not looking to fund nanobiology without an eventual path toward a human disease.

- *How do you envision funding different schools/departments/etc.?*

We will share the distribution, given intellectual merit of the proposal, its probability of success and its potential impact.

- *Can a CNN or MED investigator be on multiple proposals?*

Yes. While the primary review criterion will be intellectual merit, we seek to fund as many separate research efforts as feasible. It is unlikely, however, that more than two proposals from a single investigator will be funded.

- *Do we need to identify the partners? Will you make introductions?*

CNN and the other partners will be actively matching researchers from the two campuses. You can also look up research efforts through our online resources. A list can be found here: http://nanoscience.bu.edu/nanomedicine/

- *Will the review panel be cross-campus?*

The panel will include directors/chairs of CNN and the Department of Medicine, and a few *ad hoc* members.

- *What will make a successful proposal?*

A strong proposal will include a clear problem statement; will identify the roles and scientific contributions of each partner; specify the plan for successful cross-campus interaction; identify the measure of outcomes and success.