



**CASE CENTER FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH on ENERGETICS and CANCER  
(TREC) &**

**CASE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER ANNOUNCE**

**the Availability of Funds for Developmental Research Projects in Energetics and Cancer**

**Release Date: March 17, 2008**

**RFA: TREC003-03-08**

**Application receipt date: May 1, 2008**

The Case Center for Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer & the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center invites investigators to submit developmental projects in the area of nutrition, energetics<sup>1</sup>, energy balance, obesity, physical activity and cancer. These projects should provide an avenue for introducing and integrating new investigators and innovative technologies, methodologies, and/or research in the TREC infrastructure.

**Background:**

The National Cancer Institute funds four research centers and one coordination center as part of the Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer (TREC) initiative. The TREC Centers foster collaboration among transdisciplinary teams of scientists with the goal of accelerating progress toward reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality associated with obesity, low levels of physical activity, and poor diet. They also provide training opportunities for new and established scientists who can carry out integrative research on energetics<sup>1</sup> and energy balance. The TREC initiative complements NCI's other energy balance research endeavors and efforts of the NIH Obesity Task Force.

The TREC Centers focus on two great challenges in the area of energetics/energy balance and cancer, and they are:

1. To enhance our understanding of the mechanisms underlying the association between energy balance, obesity and cancer across the cancer continuum from causation and prevention through survival.
2. To develop effective innovative approaches with broad population impact at the social-environmental and policy level for prevention of obesity with particular emphases on children and critical time periods among adults where weight gain is likely to occur, such as during smoking cessation, cancer treatment, and major life transitions involving work or family.

These challenges require integration of diverse disciplines, spanning the full range of cancer research from the molecular biology of carcinogenesis to public policy research.

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<sup>1</sup> Energetics -- The study of the flow and transformation of energy through living systems - *The American Heritage Dictionary*, 2000.

TREC Sponsored Projects currently active at Case are listed below. More information on the projects as well as projects at other TREC Centers is available at <https://www.compass.fhcrc.org/trec/>

Project 1: Obesity and Molecular Pathways Leading to Colon Cancer, Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, Project Leader

Project 2: Insulin Resistance and Molecular Pathways Leading to Colon Cancer, Li Li, PhD, Project Leader

Project 3: Determinants of Obesity and Metabolic Dysfunction in Adolescents, Susan Redline, MD, MPH, Project Leader

### **Funding:**

Funds are available from the Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer Center for developmental projects that focus on priorities within the individual TREC Center and for cross-TREC site collaborative developmental projects. These funds are to support the ability of TREC partners to work on projects of mutual interest and facilitate collaboration, beyond what was originally proposed in the parent TREC application and projects that may be instrumental in enhancing cross-collaborations within the specific TREC research center.

Developmental research studies should be designed to provide an avenue for introducing and integrating new investigators and innovative technologies and/or methodologies into the TREC infrastructure.

Pilot projects can be funded though a maximum of \$50,000 per year, direct cost and should be planned to lead to independent research funding preferably of the NIH RO1 type. Funds may be requested for supplies, equipment less than \$5,000, research activities, salary support of technical personnel or appropriate miscellaneous expense. No funds will be provided for computers or for faculty salary support. No funds will be provided for travel or meeting participation. There are no indirect funds provided.

These funds will be awarded to support pilot projects leading to submission of peer reviewed grant proposals or discovery and introduction of innovative technologies, methodologies and/or research that furthers our understanding and ability to impact the association between energy metabolism and cancer. As such, we expect this pilot research to be initiated promptly with funds completely expended by the end of the funding year. Except in the case of highly unusual circumstances, any unexpended balances at the end of the funding year will revert to the TREC program to support other pilot projects.

The Case TREC Center anticipates funding multiple developmental studies this year. Additional awards will be considered depending on availability of funds and the quality of applications. Funding in response to this RFA is dependent upon the receipt of a sufficient number of applications of high scientific merit.

Priority for funding will be given to proposals that:

- 1) *have a clear transdisciplinary objective*
- 2) *open substantial new approaches or directions in transdisciplinary research in nutrition, energetics<sup>1</sup>, energy balance, and physical activity in relation to cancer*
- 3) *build on and expand the scope of an existing funded TREC project*
- 4) *have the potential to lead to new funding for the PI*
- 5) *involve an transdisciplinary team of at least two investigators*
- 6) *have a maximum TOTAL COST of \$50,000*
- 7) *have a high probability of being completed within one year*

**Award Period:**

The award period will be one year, with approximate start date in March, 2008; competing continuation proposals will be considered for developmental studies that show significant progress and transdisciplinary potential.

**Eligibility:**

Investigators at research institutions, both inside and outside of the TREC Consortium, are eligible to apply. This application process is open to all levels of researchers, subject only to guidelines of the applicant's base institution. However applicants must have faculty appointments at their respective institutions. Applications will not be accepted from postdoctoral fellows or other individuals who do not hold full faculty appointments. For proposals of equal scientific merit, priority will be given to investigators at TREC institutions and investigators working in collaboration with TREC investigators.

**Format of Proposals:**

Applicants should complete the forms at the end of this notice and include a scientific plan, a budget, a budget justification, an abstract, and biosketches for all study investigators on standard NIH PHS398 forms. The name of the TREC Center and Principal Investigator of the application should be on all pages of the application.

The scientific plan should be no more than five pages in length, and should be written in NIH format (arial font, 11 point, 0.5" margins), addressing each of the following areas: Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Results (if available), Experimental Methods and Design. References, human subjects, and vertebrate animals should be included as necessary, and are not subject to the five-page limit.

**Cross-center projects:**

Include a description of the unique science contributed by each center. Applications must be submitted to each TREC Center involved in the application. All involved centers receive the same application (i.e., include budget justification for all involved centers; include specific budget information, such as staffing costs, per each center's guidelines).

Send a letter of intent to the TREC Center Director of each center involved in the application at least two weeks before the application deadline. The letter of intent should include the project title, the names of the involved centers and investigators, and a brief description of the project.

*Send original application via e-mail to the e-mail address below*

E-mail contact: nathan.berger@case.edu
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*Application deadline is:  
**Friday, May 2, 2008***

**Review:**

Applications will be reviewed by the local TREC Center Scientific Review Committee. Applications will move forward to the TREC Steering Committee for approval as outlined below.

Within-center projects: Pending approval by the local TREC Center Scientific Review Committee, proposals will be forwarded to the TREC Steering Committee for funding endorsement. In the event of multiple applications that merit funding, the TREC Center Scientific Review Committee may opt to send all applications to the TREC Steering Committee for review.

Cross-center projects: Pending approval by the local TREC Center Scientific Review Committee, proposals will be forwarded to the TREC Steering Committee for full review. Cross-center projects must have endorsement from all participating centers in order to receive TREC Steering Committee approval.

**Requirements if funded:**

Award recipients who are not already TREC investigators will become TREC affiliate investigators. Awardees will be expected to attend and present their work to the TREC Scientific meetings periodically during the funding period, and prepare progress reports annually, as are Project Directors and Project Leaders of all TREC projects. In addition, recipients must provide a 5-10 page final report to the TREC Steering Committee and the NIH at the end of the funding period. Cross-center projects: Awardees will be required to provide the TREC Steering Committee with a brief progress report every 6 months.

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Completed applications should be submitted electronically to [lcc3@case.edu](mailto:lcc3@case.edu).