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**Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee  
(Programs Housed Outside of Departments)**

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Establish the Cancer Center as a Temporary Center

**SPONSOR:**

Rohit Bhargava  
Director, Cancer Center  
Founder Professor of Engineering  
EMAIL: [rxb@illinois.edu](mailto:rxb@illinois.edu)  
PHONE: 265-6596

**COLLEGE CONTACT:**

Susan A. Martinis  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research  
EMAIL: [martinis@illinois.edu](mailto:martinis@illinois.edu)  
PHONE: 333-0034

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

This proposal is to establish the Cancer Center as a Temporary Center, moving reporting lines for the Cancer Center at Illinois, now officially part of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute, to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

The Director of the Cancer Center will report to the Vice Chancellor for Research.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Cancer Center at Illinois has grown from a small community of researchers in 2010 to a well-organized group of more than 75 faculty from 15 departments. In July 2017, the University formally declared a cancer center under the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute. The Cancer Center is now pursuing the highly coveted formal NIH designation as a Basic Science Cancer Center. According to the NCI, the "[Cancer Centers Program](#) is one of the anchors of the nation's cancer research effort. There are currently 69 NCI-Designated Cancer Centers, located in 35 states and the District of Columbia, that form the backbone of NCI's programs for studying and controlling cancer." Of the 69, only seven are Basic Science Cancer Centers, including those at MIT and Purdue. To achieve this designation, the reporting line needs to be adjusted such that the Cancer Center Director reports to the VCR.

The Cancer Center is a research unit that spans multiple colleges and schools, and involving faculty and staff from a range of academic disciplines. This makes it similar to existing campus-wide Interdisciplinary Research Institutes that report to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR).

#### *About the Cancer Center*

The Cancer Center at Illinois unites world-class faculty who uncover fundamental knowledge, innovate new technologies, and enable cancer-free lives. This work is clearly aligned with the University's research, teaching, outreach, and economic development missions. Specifically, the Cancer Center works to:

- Inspire groundbreaking cancer research and technological advances using unique campus strengths in science and engineering.
- Mobilize faculty, staff, and students across campus to focus attention on cancer.
- Catalyze large multidisciplinary projects—including program project grants, training programs, and centers.
- Innovate new educational programs for students, professionals, and the general public.
- Forge multidisciplinary ties on campus to enhance research and education.
- Partner with clinical centers and companies to drive translation and achieve economic impact while building alliances with external partners.

The next step in the Cancer Center's evolution is to seek designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) – a powerful endorsement that will open doors to many new NIH funding opportunities, strongly aligning with the University's strategic objective of growing our NIH-sponsored research portfolio. The NCI recognition also leads to an increase in stature of a University's health related efforts broadly and an increase in philanthropic funding as well. A campus-level reporting structure is a requirement of NCI Cancer Center application. Therefore, we request to formalize the Cancer Center reporting structure to the OVCR by establishing it as a temporary center.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

The Cancer Center's budget is currently part of IHSI, supported by the Beckman Institute, College of Engineering and Department of Bioengineering. Staff in OVCR are preparing to transition the budget. The present MoU for support among these diverse units for the Cancer Center ends in December 2018. At that time, the OCVR will provide the necessary funding to support the Cancer Center. The NCI designation will be accompanied by additional operating funds (at least \$1.2 million direct costs per year).

#### **1) Resources for programs housed outside of a unit**

##### **a. Include an organizational chart, which outlines the organizational structure of the proposed program, reporting lines, position titles, and anticipated personnel at program launch (denoting %FTE for tenure track and non-TT faculty).**

The Director of the Cancer Center will report to the VCR. The Director, Rohit Bhargava, has been instrumental in developing the concept of a campus-wide cancer center. He will continue to be responsible for the overall mission, activities, and budget, in close consultation with the VCR, Cancer Center Steering Committee, and Staff.

Tenure-track faculty are part of the Cancer Center, either with administrative (not academic) appointments, (i.e., director), or as 0%-time faculty affiliates.

The proposed organizational chart is structured as follows:

**CHANCELLOR**

Vice Chancellor for Research

CANCER CENTER DIRECTOR

- Deputy Director
- Program Leads
- Associate Director for Administration
- Administrative Support
- Steering Committee

Groups that provide guidance and input to the Cancer Center Director include:

- Internal Advisory Committee (currently being formed)
- Executive Advisory Committee (national cancer center leaders)

Additionally, the OVCR provides the following support for the Cancer Center:

- Operations
- HR
- Finance
- Communications
- Advancement

**b. Provide all relevant MOA's and/or MOU's, which should outline all necessary financial agreements, and the roles and responsibilities of each participating unit in the proposed program.**

See attached

**c. Describe the physical home of the program, including long-term plans for new facilities, if applicable.**

The Cancer Center at Illinois is housed in newly renovated space in the Beckman Institute. Beckman has contributed at least \$ 60,000 and other support in terms of space, staff assistance and planned renovations up to \$ 3 million, and is a full partner in ensuring the success of the Center. We envisage a growth model similar to that of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), which was housed in the BI until external support enabled buildings and new facilities. We anticipate that philanthropic support will allow us first to add facilities within the BI as needed by the cancer center and, eventually, grow into a new building many years in the future.

**d. Describe how critical academic functions such as admissions and student advising are managed.**

The Cancer Center does not directly offer degrees but instead supports several programs to prepare the next generation of pioneers in cancer research. The Cancer Center's educational programs provide transformative learning experiences, including research opportunities, fellowships, workforce development and advocacy. They include:

- High School Programs (ResearchHStart, an 8-week, cancer-focused research and career development experience)
- Undergraduate Programs (Cancer Scholars Programs, an interdisciplinary educational experience that exposes students to grand challenge research early in their academic careers)
- Graduate Programs (TiMe, a training program supported by the NIH, and C\*STAR, a training program offered in collaboration with Carle Foundation Hospital)
- Post-doctoral Programs (Beckman Fellows spend several years conducting independent, interdisciplinary, oncology-related translational research)

Presently, Prof. Bhargava is the PI and directs each of these programs. We anticipate that an Associate Director for education within the center and full-time, professional staff dedicated staff to managing these programs will be added. Currently, one FTE is devoted to these programs.

**e. Describe how interdisciplinary governing councils or committees are composed, selected and maintained.**

The Cancer Center Steering Committee includes 13 faculty members from 11 departments. Committee members represent the diverse spectrum of cancer research across campus, including the physical, life, and social and behavioral sciences, as well as engineering.

The External Advisory Committee (EAC) includes 14 leaders from the national cancer research community. This group meets at least once per year on campus and provides input and guidance for Cancer Center activities that will support the submission of Cancer Center Support Grant for NCI designation. The review report of this committee is essential to the submission for NCI designation. Their recommendations are carefully considered, point by point, by the NIH and in the review process.

**f. Outline the reporting process that allows faculty to document their involvement in the program and the merit of their contributions to the program to their home unit(s).**

The Director of the Cancer Center will meet monthly with VCR, as do other institute directors. The OVCR is providing support for Cancer Center communications activities, including website maintenance, weekly email digest, and publicity for educational programs and community building.

The cancer center support grant (CCSG) requires extensive documentation of participation, and the contributions of members are carefully enumerated. Cancer Center staff are required to track participation by member faculty at each event and compile reports annually to be assessed by the EAC.

**g. Include the phase-down plan for the program once it is no longer needed.**

Launching an NCI-designated Cancer Center creates a foundation for future growth in the biomedical sciences. The NCI designation is an NIH grant that is renewed every 5 years once attained. If the grant is not renewed, the University loses NCI designation. At that point, either the cancer center can be phased out or a renewed effort can be made to regain the designation.

## **2) Resource Implications**

### **a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.**

Per org chart, existing faculty will fill roles through occasional buy out of teaching as needed for individual positions. Currently, only the Director is bought out of teaching for one semester.

### **c. Please address the impact on the University Library** *(A letter of estimated impact from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals. If the impact is above and beyond normal library business practices, describe provisions for how this will be resourced.)*

None above normal since the center includes existing university researchers.

### **d. Please address the impact on technology and space** (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

Technology - None above normal since the center includes existing university researchers.

Space – space (~10,000 sq ft) has been allocated by the Beckman Institute to house the offices and shared resources of the cancer center.

### **DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**May 31, 2018**

**CLEARANCES:** (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. **These signatures must appear on a separate sheet.** If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

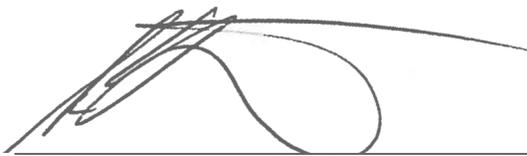
Signatures:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Representative: Rohit Bhargava

April 11, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:



\_\_\_\_\_  
College Representative: Susan Martinis

April 11, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Among the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative, the College of Engineering,**  
**and the Department of Bioengineering**  
**For the development and establishment of a Cancer Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**Purpose**

The Interdisciplinary Health Science Initiative (IHSI), the College of Engineering, and the Bioengineering Department enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the development of a Cancer Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. As described in the accompanying Letter of Intent, the support is for: 1) development of a Cancer Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and 2) appointment of Rohit Bhargava, PhD as the Director initially of the Cancer Community @ Illinois, and then, upon obtaining official campus approval, including through the Academic Senate, of the establishment of the Illinois Cancer Center, as the Director of the Cancer Center. This agreement will be effective January 15, 2016 for a period of three years.

**Support**

The following annual commitments have been made in support of the Cancer Community/Center:

Commitment (Years 1, 2, and 3)

Unit/Department	Amount of funds committed
College of Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,500 toward the Director Stipend</li> <li>• Salary support for 0.25 FTE of Administrative Support personnel for the Director</li> <li>• \$25,000 toward management of ResearchHStart program</li> </ul>
Department of Bioengineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,500 toward the Director Stipend</li> <li>• Salary support for 0.75 FTE of Administrative Support personnel for the Director</li> <li>• 100% of Faculty Salary line</li> <li>• Semester of teaching release</li> </ul>
IHSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$17,200 toward the Director Stipend</li> <li>• Salary support for 0.50 FTE of Administrative Support personnel for the Director</li> <li>• 100% of Cancer Community/Center Associate Director salary</li> <li>• Logistical and communications support, as well as financial support of \$25,000, for the Cancer Community/Center program activities</li> </ul>

**OVCR:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Neal J. Cohen PhD, Director, IHSI

April 19, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

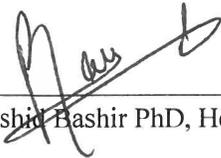


\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Schiffer PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research

4/24/16

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Rashid Bashir PhD, Head, Department of Bioengineering

4/26/16

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Andreas Cangellaris PhD, Dean, College of Engineering

4/26/16

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute**

901 West University Avenue  
Suite 101, MC-261  
Urbana, IL 61801  
healthinstitute.illinois.edu

April 11, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy:

I strongly support the proposal to establish the Cancer Center as a Temporary Center, reporting directly to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

Over the last several years, the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute (IHSI) has helped to support first the Cancer Community, and now the Cancer Center at Illinois, as part of our efforts to build capacity in biomedical research.

These efforts have thrived, and our Cancer Center is now poised to apply for the prestigious Basic Science Cancer Center designation from the National Institute of Health's National Cancer Institute, via a Cancer Center Support Grant. If successful, this will have a significant impact on our campus.

IHSI has been proud to incubate Cancer Center activities, but the Cancer Center's External Advisory Board has emphasized to us that *NCI designation requires that the organization report to the campus administration. Therefore, it is critical that, at this time, the Center have its reporting line changed so that it reports directly to the Vice Chancellor for Research.*

The Cancer Center Support Grant from the Cancer Institute will provide sustained funding of several million dollars per year, and the NCI designation will enable us to apply for additional NIH funding opportunities for which we are currently not eligible.

Elevating the Cancer Center will strengthen and sustain our campus efforts to enhance and build our global reputation in the health sciences via research, education, clinical partnerships, and outreach. This is an exciting opportunity to grow our sponsored research portfolio and strongly aligns with the campus strategic planning process.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal J. Cohen', written over a white background.

Neal J. Cohen  
Director  
Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute (IHSI)

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic  
Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



April 11, 2018

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a request from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to establish the Cancer Center as a Temporary Center.

Sincerely,



Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: S. Martinis  
R. Bhargava  
S. Key  
M. Edwards  
A. Edwards  
E. Stuby