NOTICE
Internal Grant Program Opportunity

ABRAHAM A. MITCHELL
CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Background
The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute (USAMCI) and the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center (UABCCC) are continuing efforts to formalize a Consortium Partnership, as defined by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). UABCCC is one of the oldest, largest and most distinguished NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation; the UABCCC annually receives more than $150M extramural grant dollars for cancer research; the UABCCC has more than 350 faculty members spanning many departments across the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

By partnering with UABCCC, USAMCI aims to achieve and share with UABCCC the prestigious designation as an NCI Comprehensive Consortium Cancer Center. To achieve this goal, a substantial growth and broadening of the cancer-related and cancer-relevant extramural grant funding based at the University of South Alabama is required.

Creation of the Fund
To help ensure achievement of the aforementioned distinction, Mr. Abraham A. Mitchell has, with a gift to the University of South Alabama, created the Abraham A. Mitchell Cancer Research Fund (“the Fund”).

Aims of the Fund
Through the Fund, Mr. Mitchell and USA will:

- Help accelerate the growth of cancer-related and cancer-relevant (in the broadest sense) research across many disciplines and departments of the University of South Alabama,

- Help provide incentives for USA faculty university-wide to engage in cancer-related and cancer-relevant research,

- Help support the engagement of diverse USA faculty in substantive and demonstrable collaborative cancer-related and cancer-relevant research activities in concert with UAB and MCI faculty.
• Help support the growth of interdisciplinary cancer-related or cancer-relevant research across USA that is highly competitive for e.g. NIH, NSF, DOD, ACS, other grant funding. This could potentially include funding for diversity, population and social sciences, development of new devices and diagnostic instrumentation, in addition to basic research.

**Administration of the Fund**

The solicitation, review, award and follow-up process will be administered through the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Economic Development, University of South Alabama.

**Application Process**

**Projected Number of Awards:** 15 - 25 awards are anticipated over the life of the Fund.  
**Project Budgets:** Budgetary range is $50,000 - $60,000 for one year. The number of proposals funded is not predetermined.

**A two-stage application process will be utilized:**

**Stage 1:** One page pre-proposal to include:

• Project Summary,

• Specific Aims and,

• Key Personnel

Pre-proposals will be reviewed for applicability to the Fund and determination of whether the specific aims will advance the MCI goal of National Cancer Institute designation in collaboration with UAB.

**Stage 2:** Full proposals will use the NIH R21 format and forms.

**Deadlines:**

Pre-proposals: 5:00 pm, October 15, 2014  
Successful applicants will be notified by November 17, 2014 if they are invited to submit a full proposal.

Full Proposals: 5:00 pm, January 5, 2015  
Successful invitees will be notified by March 2, 2015 if their application will be funded.

**Application Submissions:** Both Pre- and Full proposals will be submitted via email to Kathy Cunningham in the Office of Sponsored Research and Economic Development at: kcunningham@southalabama.edu.

2015 New Proposal Announcement
**Project Requirements:**
- Projects must be highly meritorious, cancer-related or cancer-relevant exploratory or pilot research projects,
- Principal Investigators must be non-MCI faculty. MCI or UABCCC collaboration is required,
- Projects with at least one UAB faculty member as collaborator are encouraged but not required.

**Review Criteria**
Projects will be evaluated, scored and ranked based upon NIH criteria by an appropriately qualified peer-review team. In addition, projects will be considered and ranked with respect to:
- Competitiveness for future extramural grant funding,
- Research not currently funded by another internal or external sponsor,
- Furthering the collaboration between USA and UAB and/or between MCI and other USA research initiatives,
- Novel or innovative research that can be shown to be cancer-related or cancer-relevant.

NOTE: The number of projects funded at any given time may vary depending upon merit evaluation and priority ranking of the proposals. No project will be financially supported that does not meet appropriate merit standards or which does not sufficiently address the Aims of the Fund as set forth above.