

## Review Criteria for EPRC

The University of Hawaii Cancer Center is dedicated to supporting our Investigators' goals of advancing novel approaches to treating cancer. Early Phase Clinical Research Support (EPCRS) is a mechanism for providing financial support to unfunded or underfunded Investigator Initiated Trials (IITs) authored by University of Hawaii Cancer Center Members. As part of this mission, applications submitted to the EPCRS are evaluated for scientific merit through a peer review system, comprised of three reviewers (Jeff Huang, PharmD, UHCC - Chair, Brian Issell, MD, UHCC and Yanis Bumber, MD, PhD, University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center).

**Overall Impact.** Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert an impact on the way medicine (i.e., oncology) is practice.

**Scored Review Criteria.** Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major impact.

EPCRS utilizes a 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional; 9 = poor) for all applications; the same scale is used for overall impact scores. Before the EPCRS meeting, each reviewer assigned to an application gives a separate score for each of the five review criteria (i.e., Impact, Innovation, Approach, Investigative Team, Usage of Shared Resources). For all applications the individual scores of the assigned reviewers for these criteria are reported to the applicant. Each reviewer's score reflects his/her evaluation of the overall impact that the project is likely to have on the research field(s) involved, rather than being a calculation of the reviewer's scores for each criterion. The final overall impact score for each application is determined by calculating the mean score from all the eligible members' impact scores, and multiplying the average by 10; the final overall impact score is reported to the applicant. Thus, the final overall impact scores range from 10 (high impact) through 90 (low impact).

**Impact.** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the objectives of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be changed/improved? How will successful completion of the objectives change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

**Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or

interventions proposed?

**Approach.** Are the overall study design strategy and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific objectives of the trial? Are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

**Investigative Team.** Are the principal investigator and sub-investigators well suited to the project? If the project is collaboration, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise?

**Usage of Shared Resources.** Are Shared Resources within UHCC (or another NCI-designated cancer center) we used for the trial? Will the shared resource contribute to the probability of success?