

Cherry Research Committee 2018-2019 Request for Proposals – Biomedical Research Priorities

Leading causes of death in the United States include heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. Leading diet-related diseases affecting Americans include overweight and obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and stroke. Other diseases and conditions such as arthritis and chronic pain affect quality of life are also of growing importance to public health. Consumers demand more information and research on the possible health and athletic performance benefits of whole foods. *A key goal of the Cherry Research Committee (CRC) is to obtain information on roles that regular tart cherry/tart cherry product intake could play in the fight against these diseases and their public health burden and/or ways to enhance wellness and fitness, including athletic performance.*

The CRC aims to assure that any new research supports the overall healthfulness of tart cherries/tart cherry products. Therefore, a variety of diseases or health conditions are open to exploration, given there is sufficient justification that a particular research protocol be undertaken. In addition, it is important that all newly funded studies not be redundant with existing research on tart cherries and tart cherry products.

All proposed research should be hypothesis-driven, and would strive to establish an association or to document a direct relationship between the consumption of tart cherry phytonutrients (when consumed as whole tart cherries or processed tart cherry products) and reduced risk, prevention, or improved treatment of a disease or condition of significant public interest. The study design should also examine a possible cellular/molecular mechanism of the treatment effects. This approach will enhance the possibility that the research could be subsequently expanded upon using federal support (USDA, NIH, etc), either by the original investigator or by others.

Experimentally, there are numerous areas of health promotion that could be explored due to the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of tart cherry products. Each proposal will be considered upon its approaches, innovation and rationale. ***We encourage initial contact with the CMI (SRO@cherryresearch.com) to determine the potential interest and innovation relative to the current portfolio.*** In addition to a list of published tart cherry research, our website lists “Current Projects” that may not yet be in a peer-reviewed journal. Please review this list and contact us if you are concerned about potential overlap with the aims of any CMI-funded projects.

The CRC/CMI would provide the raw tart cherry products (whole tart cherries, tart cherry concentrate, or whole tart cherry powder) at no cost, but any special repackaging costs for clinical trials should be included in the study budget. Also, any costs for making a placebo product for clinical studies should be included in the study budget. A recipe for the placebo product for clinical trials can be provided to you.

Proposal Format and Budgetary Guidelines

Cost: Individual research studies will be considered on their merit. The CRC/CMI has no specific guidelines concerning cost limits for projects. The most competitive projects are under \$50,000/year. Projects with costs exceeding \$50,000 must be of high priority to the CMI; we suggest initial contact with the CMI (SRO@cherryresearch.com) to discuss further.

Overhead: The CRC/CMI will not provide indirect costs. A letter can be provided to your institution to clarify this, if needed.

Equipment: The CRC/CMI does not generally provide costs for equipment purchases, but any requests would be considered in a case-by-case basis. Equipment costs are capped at 10% of the total award.

Cost sharing: The CRC/CMI will consider co-sponsoring research only if agreement can be reached on select aspects of research oversight.

Contracts vs. grants: Depending on the need of each university, research dollars can be provided either on a contract or grant basis.

Funding of multi-year projects: Projects designed as multi-year efforts are not funded as commonly as one-year projects. In funded, the CRC/CMI reserves the right to discontinue funding of any multi-year projects should regular progress not be adequately demonstrated. Multi-year projects should be designed so that adequate scientific merit/proof-of-principle can be determined following Year 1, to inform the Board about the rationale for Year 2 funding. An abridged proposal in the form of a Year 1 Annual Report will be expected for projects requesting their second year of funding.

Submission Guide

The following format is required for research proposals submitted to the CRC. Please compose using 1" margins, 11 pt font or higher, single space. Please include:

1. Title Page: Include name of researcher(s), affiliation(s), address, email, phone and fax numbers.

2. Research Plan: (10 pages maximum for Parts A-D)

Part A. Specific Aims (Max 1 page). Include the rationale for conducting the proposed research. The hypothesis should be stated, and the aims/objectives should be stated in a logical sequence.

Part B. Research Strategy (Max 9 pages; subsections of Significance, Innovation, and Approaches).

Include background information on the health condition under study, and what information is unknown. Include rationale for the proposed effects of cherry/cherry product intake. Include any preliminary data if available that would support the rationale or the hypothesis. All proposals should contain a description of the experimental design including the number of replicates/sample size justifications and the proposed methods of data analysis. Sufficient details of procedures should be given to allow the committee to evaluate the proposal, but published literature can be referenced for established methods in order to conserve space.

Part C. Timetable (less than 1 page). A timetable should be included which details the project completion date and anticipated submission of the final report. The researcher will provide written progress reports six months from the project start date and every six months thereafter until project completion.

Part D. References Cited (no page limits)

3. Budget and Budget Justification: Please use the NIH-style budget form. Key Personnel should be listed, even if no monies are requested for their effort. The budget should contain a list of expenditures detailed as to material, labor, supplies and maintenance, equipment, and other specific costs.

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Please note that indirect costs are not allowed. In addition, equipments costs are capped at 10% of the total award.

4. Resources: Please include information on your current resources using the NIH-style Resources page.

5. **Personnel:** Personnel other than the principal investigator(s) should be listed, along with their responsibilities relating to the project.
6. **Biosketch:** Please use the NIH-style Biosketch form. A brief biosketch of the principal investigator(s) is required limited to four pages total. Please include previous published projects that are most relevant to the current proposal. Also, please include a similar biosketch for any Co-Investigators listed as Key Personnel on the Budget form.
7. **Signatures:** Each proposal must contain the signatures of the chairman of the department, the dean of the college, or the head of the division. This is typically on the title page.

If the proposal is accepted, the researcher will engage in a Memorandum of Agreement with the CMI; note that this is not needed when initially submitting the proposal. This agreement details specific requirements that must be met in order for the CMI to approve any project. Details will be shared later upon any initial funding decisions by our Science Advisory Board, in October of 2018.

Proposals should be submitted electronically as ONE .PDF document by August 13th, 2018 to:
Director, Science Advisory Board, SRO@cherryresearch.com
Cc: Phil Korson, CMI President, pkorson@aol.com

Reporting Obligations

Policy Concerning Public Disclosure of Research Results:

Publication. Understanding the underlying reason for the industry's funding of such studies, researchers should plan to seek publication of study findings in appropriate reputable, peer-reviewed scientific journals, and might also seek to present preliminary findings at scientific conferences *when presentation would not jeopardize peer-reviewed journal publication*. Decisions regarding these matters would be made in consultation with CRC staff.

Results Dissemination. Upon discussion with CRC staff, researchers will be expected to communicate research findings when abstracts are presented at scientific conferences and/or upon publication in a peer-reviewed journal. This would include the researcher communicating appropriate findings to professional and mainstream consumer media and other appropriate audiences, with assistance from communications staff within their organization. This advance notice will help aid in coordination promotional and communications activities related to the research. The CMI adheres to all embargo guidelines as related to media communications.

Progress Reports: Electronic progress reports for all projects yet to be completed must be submitted six months from the start date of the project and every six months thereafter until project completion. Progress reports must be submitted in order for a proposal to be considered for continued funding. Progress reports should be no more than three pages and contain a general description of the project and include a summary of the research results to date. Briefly describe any additional experiments that are planned for the funding cycle. Include any questions or concerns about your project.

Final Reports: Acceptance of funding commits the principal investigator(s) to submitting a Final Report to the committee for distribution to the CMI. This report should contain a brief introduction, a description of experimental design, a summary of results and any conclusions.

Please follow these guidelines when preparing your Final Report to CMI:

1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Background and justification (less than 1 page)
4. Research results – please provide results of each experiment performed
5. Discussion of results, recommendations for further work or other suggestions

Please aim for 5 to 10 pages for the full final report. The report should be provided electronically to SRO@cherryresearch.com and to CMI President Phil Korson, pkorson@aol.com

Continuation of Funding: Research projects originally designated for one year may receive additional funding contingent upon CMI approval, available funds, and sufficient progress toward research goals as outlined in the original proposal. A budget for the additional year of funding should be included in the Year 1 proposal, as well as how an additional year would further add to the results.

Contact Information for Questions/Notification of Funding: Please provide us with contact information for funding notifications if different from the PI's contact information:

Name:

Job Title:

Mail Address:

e-mail:

Phone:

Funding decisions are made after the Science Advisory Board convenes in late September, and decisions will be sent to Principal Investigators in early October. Administrative elements like the MOA and contract engagement can begin formally during that period.