Instructions for Cristal Brain Tumor Pilot Proposals

All applications must specifically focus on either malignant or non-malignant brain tumors and have a clear justification for how the project will provide insights into unique aspects of these diseases or may lead to improved outcomes of brain tumor patients. While investigators may participate in multiple projects, only one application may be submitted from each Principal Investigator. All applications must include a neurosurgery resident in addition to a clinical or laboratory-based faculty member from CWRU or University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

Proposals will be limited to 4 pages and include the following:

- Research Plan with Specific Aims and Statistical Plan (up to 3 pages)
- Description of the Research Team, including the role of the neurosurgery resident (~0.5 page)
- Plans for Future Funding (~0.25 page)
- Plans for use of the Brain Tumor Tissue Bank (~0.25 page)

Additional information that should be submitted but is not included in the 4 page limit includes:

- Cover Page that includes the Title, PI, Institution(s), Department(s), and all co-investigators
- NIH Biosketches for all key personnel (up to 5 pages each)
- References Cited
- One page budget with categories and justification (note PI salary support and travel are normally excluded). Budget should include costs of obtaining samples from the biorepository.
- Letters of support from the Brain Tumor Biorepository and a Biostatistician.

Review Criteria:

- Project focuses on malignant and/or non-malignant brain tumors
- A collaborative team that definitively engages a neurosurgical resident in the project
- Project addresses an important biological or clinical research problem
- Research plan is innovative, impactful, and is appropriately designed
- Project includes tissues from the Brain Tumor Bio-repository
- The project and research team have a high likelihood for future funding from national sources

Obligations of Awardees:

- Acknowledgement of support from the Cristal Brain Tumor Pilot Program in all publications and media releases associated with the supported project.
- Timely submission of data and stewardship reports upon request from the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Participation in meetings with the Brain Tumor Research Team.
- Presentation of research upon request at Case Comprehensive Cancer Center retreats, symposia, or seminar series.