CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. *This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.*

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's ***Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.***

Date 11/30/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Wistar Institute
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Phone: 215-898-3954
Website: www.wistar.org
Year Incorporated: 1946
FEIN: 23-6434390
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ED/CEO Name: Dario Altieri, M.D.
ED/CEO E-mail: daltieri@wistar.org
Board Chair Name: Richard Horowitz
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Dara Lieberson

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

___ Arts, Culture & Humanities
___ Environment/Animal Welfare
_X_ Education
_X_ Health
___ Human Services
___ Religion

Mission: The mission of The Wistar Institute is to marshal the talents of outstanding scientists through a highly-enabled culture of biomedical collaboration and innovation, in order to solve some of the world's most challenging and important problems in the field of cancer, immunology, and infectious diseases, and produce groundbreaking advances in world health. Consistent with a pioneering legacy of leadership in not-for-profit biomedical research and a track record of life-saving contributions in immunology and cell biology, The Wistar Institute aims to pursue novel and courageous research paths to life science discovery, and to accelerate/potentiate the impact of those discoveries by shortening the path from bench to bedside.

Geographic Area Served *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):*
Greater Philadelphia and surrounding counties, including Chester and Delaware counties.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Approximately 85 post-doctoral trainees/students per year. Education programs serve students starting from age 16 and up, with a focus on populations from diverse backgrounds who are underrepresented in STEM.

Annual Budget $__72,706,000_____

_78.2%_ % of budget for program expenses
_20%__ % of budget for administrative expenses
_1.8%__ % of budget for fundraising expenses
100 % total

___279___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___30___ # of Board Volunteers
___N/A___ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
1 hour/week # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

1) Federal grants
2) Non-federal gifts, grants, and contracts
3) Investment draw and other income

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ___ or General Operating __X__?
Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: $5,000

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

Bold Science, Global Impact:

The Wistar Institute, America's first independent, non-profit biomedical research institute, has been the home of breakthrough scientific discovery in cancer, immunology and infectious disease research for more than 125 years. The Institute evolved from its beginnings as an anatomical teaching museum in Philadelphia to its present-day status as an international leader in basic biomedical research, becoming prominent in vaccine research in the 1950's and holding the prestigious Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute continuously since 1972.

Wistar's innovations have changed the course of human health around the world, saving millions of lives. The first live-virus polio vaccine was developed at Wistar in the 1950's, many years prior to the Salk vaccine. Wistar also developed vaccines against rubella (1969), rabies (1970's), and rotavirus (2000) which remain standards of disease treatment and prevention today. Wistar scientists were among the first to develop monoclonal antibodies, which detect and destroy cancer cells, and have also identified important genes associated with breast, lung, and prostate cancer. Together with its partners and based upon a next-generation technology platform, Wistar designed a vaccine with unprecedented safety and efficacy against the Zika virus in 2017. These achievements, which comprise only a part of Wistar's body of work, tell a singular story: saving lives is our purpose and our call to action.

Training the Next Generation:

The Wistar Institute also takes seriously its commitment to the community through targeted public programs. Education and training have always been a priority of Wistar's mission, and our Institute hosts the entire spectrum of research trainees, from high school to undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, always with the goal of developing their careers in biomedical research and developing workforce opportunities.

Wistar's Biomedical Technician Training (BTT) Program is a one-year curriculum that provides education and workforce training for students at community colleges. This one-of-a-kind program positions BTT graduates to successfully enter the workforce, providing students seeking associates degrees with the skills necessary to obtain positions in biomedical research laboratories and other areas of STEM. In acknowledgement of the program's success, the BTT Program was formally approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry in February 2019 as the first state-certified, nontraditional pre-apprenticeship program in biomedical research in the country.

Our education programs address the lack of diversity in the biomedical research workforce by recruiting an inclusive community of local students who had not previously been exposed to laboratory training opportunities. After the success of Wistar's BTT partnership with Community College of Philadelphia, we now look forward to serving more students, particularly those in Chester and Delaware Counties, with an expansion planned into Delaware County Community College for 2023. Wistar's newest program with Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, and the focus of this request, was launched in 2020 to offer professional and workforce development opportunities to Cheyney students.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives:
The Wistar Institute and Cheyney University program, a new strategic collaboration between the nation's first biomedical research institute and the nation's first Historic Black College and University (HBCU), incorporates Wistar research education and training as part of Cheyney's four-year curriculum. Through this partnership, we are creating career pathways in the life sciences by providing education, hands-on job skills training and a paid apprenticeship component connecting students to employment. Cheyney students enroll in the Biomedical Methods Research course at Wistar's state-of-the-art training lab, study authentic Wistar science and attend virtual lectures taught by Wistar staff once per week.

Students do not just learn techniques: they explore real research taking place now in the lab of Wistar researcher Dr. Maureen Murphy, studying the impact of genetic variants on cancer risk in people of African descent. The program also includes guest speakers on a range of topics, including resume writing and interview preparation. To maximize the potential of this strategic collaboration, the Institute assembled a Workforce Advisory Council that includes executives from biotech and pharma to forge new connections and match students with internships.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed:
As a strong believer in creating educational opportunities for young people in the biomedical sciences, Wistar and Cheyney share a common goal to create a skilled and diverse workforce that will sustain the growth of the life sciences in our region. The successful integration of the Biomedical Research Methods course within Cheyney's four-year curriculum also expands Wistar research training and education partnerships to areas outside of Philadelphia, with Cheyney's campus located in both Delaware and Chester Counties, allowing us to reach more students and communities.

Why it is important to fund this now:
The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light long-standing issues of racial injustice and equity in our nation. The paucity of diversity in the biomedical research workforce is a historic problem that needs to be addressed. At Wistar, we are committed to making our training programs accessible to more students to enhance inclusion, equity and diversity in the life science workforce. Our new partnership with the nation's first HBCU, Cheyney University, is a prime example of this effort. Under the leadership of President Aaron Walton, Cheyney has recruited a highly talented staff, restored its financial stability and academic accreditation over the past three years. Cheyney's revitalization has centered on its intention to create a biosciences center of excellence on campus, that focuses on student enrichment, research and entrepreneurship. In addition, as a new member of the Philadelphia Research Consortium (PRC), Cheyney University and its on-campus life science companies will be able to leverage the research and business communities coalesced around the PRC. Wistar is proud to collaborate with Cheyney University as we increase workforce development and business opportunities in Chester County.

Support from Chester County Community Foundation will address costs of running the program and student support, such as internship stipends, lab supplies, cost of transportation from Cheyney's campus to Wistar, and program administration costs. We appreciate the opportunity to share our work and present this proposal.

How impact & results will be demonstrated:
Short-term outcomes include: students gain knowledge and skills in conjunction with support from their cohort and the Wistar and Cheyney faculty; students acquire technical and research skills required to work in an entry-level position in the biomedical research field; students gain valuable professional

contacts and build positive relationships with experienced scientists and industry leaders while receiving an introduction to a variety of biomedical research areas and opportunities available in the Greater Philadelphia region. Participants are assessed during each program component and completion rates, continued education, and position obtainment are reported. Our goal is to have 80% of students completing each program component (courses and internship experiences).

Long-term outcomes include creating a pool of diverse and highly skilled workforce participants in the growing Philadelphia-area life sciences sector and creating and strengthening STEM business development opportunities between Chester and Delaware Counties and West Philadelphia. Long-term outcomes will be collected with a new Wistar Trainee Network alumni site.