Request for Proposals (RFP):
2026 Neuro-Oncology POP Challenge

Issued by: Lotus Neuro

Release Date: June 1, 2026

Goal: To obtain human Proof of Pharmacology (POP) of therapeutic assets in combination with Focused Ultrasound (FUS) for GBM or DIPG patients.

1. Executive Summary

Focused Ultrasound (FUS) is a non-invasive medical technology that uses acoustic energy to temporarily and precisely disrupt the blood-brain barrier (BBB), the protective layer that typically prevents over 98% of therapeutic agents from reaching the brain. This technology represents a breakthrough in neuro-oncology because it may enable improved delivery of therapeutic assets directly to tumors and tumor margins for GBM and DIPG therapy, potentially transforming these fatal diagnoses into treatable conditions. At Lotus Neuro, our mission is to build a comprehensive ecosystem that bridges cutting-edge device innovation with advanced therapeutics to redefine how brain diseases are treated.

Lotus Neuro is launching the **POP Challenge** to accelerate the development of advanced therapeutics for brain tumors. We are seeking clinical sites currently running GBM or DIPG studies that have the capability to integrate a FUS arm into their existing Investigational New Drug (IND) applications. The primary objective is to test the potential of FUS to enhance the delivery of a therapeutic asset within human brain tissue.

By partnering with us for this challenge, clinical centers gain access to world-class scientific and regulatory guidance, and funding to support the FUS arm. Come join the elite network of innovators accelerating the next generation of brain cancer treatments.

2. Scientific Focus & Assets of Interest

We are prioritizing assets with a strong scientific rationale for FUS-enhanced delivery, specifically:

- **Modalities of Interest:** Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs), Bispecifics, Immuno-oncology agents, and Radiopharmaceuticals. Open to small molecules if they go after high-potential disease targets.

3. Support Provided by Lotus

Lotus will provide selected sites with:

- **Financial Support** for additional FUS arm
- **Scientific & Regulatory Support:** Assistance with study design and regulatory alignment
- **Clinical Network:** Integration into a growing network of elite FUS centers

4. Application Process

Step 1: Eligibility Check

Applicants must pass an initial screening to ensure eligibility for participation.

- **Ongoing Clinical Trial**: Must have active clinical trial in GBM or DIPG.
- **Device:** Site must have an **Insightec Exablate 220** system installed and operational.
- **Asset Support:** Must have written agreement from the pharma partner providing the asset to add a FUS arm.
- **Recruitment:** Site must demonstrate sufficient annual patient volume and ability to recruit patients.
- **Timeline:** Commitment to complete all paperwork and enroll the **first patient by December 2026**.
- **1-page Summary**: Upload a 1-page summary of the proposed study.

Step 2: Full Proposal (By Invitation Only, Due August 2, 2026, 11:59PM ET)

Full proposal components:

1. **Study Proposal** (6 pages maximum). See required sections below.
2. **References** (2 pages maximum)
3. **Budget**. Itemized cost breakdown for the FUS arm — device time, staff, imaging, monitoring, regulatory.
4. **Letter of Support** from biopharma collaborator providing the asset for the trial

Study Proposal (6 pages maximum) must include the following required information:

- **Scientific rationale for asset + FUS combo.** What is the scientific evidence to date that suggests FUS could enhance brain delivery of the specific asset?
- **Safety risk assessment of asset + FUS combo.** What is the rationale to support the safety profile of asset dose + FUS?
- **Study plan.** What are the study details incorporating a FUS arm into the ongoing trial?

- **Biomarker plan.** Methodology for measuring Target Engagement (TE) / Pharmacokinetics (PK) / Pharmacodynamics (PD) (e.g., imaging, surgical tissue and CSF MS/HPLC, or FUS-enabled liquid biopsy from blood).
- **Patient recruitment.** How many patients are required to sufficiently power the study? What are the plans and expectations for patient access and recruitment?
- **Overall logistics.** What is the timeline and budget for the proposed study? What are the key logistical milestones leading up to first-patient enrollment?

5. Key Dates & Deadlines

Milestone	Date
POP Challenge Kick-Off	June 1, 2026
Eligibility Screening Due	As soon as possible
1-page Letter of Intent Due	June 15, 2026
Invitation to Submit Full Proposal	By June 30, 2026
Full Proposal Due	August 2, 2026, 11:59PM ET
Notification of Results	By August 15, 2026
Paperwork Completion	Sept – Nov 2026
First Patient Enrolled	December 2026

6. Selection Criteria

Review committee will evaluate proposals based on the following:

- **Scientific Merit:** Strength of rationale and likelihood of success.
- **Safety:** Rigor of the safety risk assessment.
- **Feasibility:** Efficiency of the proposed timeline, budget, and ability to recruit patients.
- **Data Rights:** Agreement that Lotus will have rights to use and jointly publish the resulting data.
- **Study Samples**: Access to patient samples.