



Atrium Health

Junior Faculty Institutional Research Pilot Request for Applications

Purpose

The Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) and Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute (LCI) are pleased to announce the availability of Internal Research Grant funds from the American Cancer Society. The purpose of the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG) is to promote innovative cancer research by supporting the initiation of cancer research projects that will produce preliminary results and enable junior faculty to successfully compete for national research grants. At the core of this effort, both the CCC and LCI will extend available resources and expertise to junior faculty investigators to foster their research ideas and help them to successfully compete for national funding. Studies in all areas of cancer research - laboratory, clinical, prevention and control, and psychosocial cancer research - will be considered for funding. Proposal budgets may be up to \$50,000. Applications will be reviewed by the ACS-IRG review committee and up to four meritorious applications will be selected.

Eligibility

Applications will be considered to be responsive to the call if they meet the following criteria:

- Applicants are appointed as faculty by Wake Forest University, Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering, or Wake Forest University School of Medicine at the academic rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor or equivalent and eligible to apply for independent national grants;
- Applicants cannot have received prior, or hold current, major funding from a national peer-reviewed source (R01, R21, R25, NSF, ACS, AHA, DOD, etc.). K-awards are allowable;
- Applicants should be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment;
- Application includes a strategy for submission of a larger grant application, such as R01, to further the work developed in this pilot; and
- Applicants must have an established mentor team at the time of proposal submission.

*Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to collaborate with a CCC member.

Key Dates

3/1/2023, 5p EST	Full Application Deadline
3/24/2023	Selection of Awardees
4/1/2023	Project Start Date
10/1/2023	6-month Progress Report Due
3/1/2024	Latest Project End Date
5/1/2024	12-month Progress Report Due



Funding Projects may request up to \$50,000 in direct costs (see section on Budget Guidelines for details), as funded by ACS-IRG.

Application Procedure

The application can be submitted through [REDCap](#), by the deadline noted above. Application instructions are summarized below.

Full Application Deadline: 3/1/2023, 5p EST

Submission/Applicant Information

- Project Title
- Submitting Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), and other Key Personnel information (including mentor team of at least three faculty members)

Abstract (500 words)

- Applications must include a summary of the project. It should consist of a brief description of the objectives, rationale, methods, and expected results. (Limit 250 words)
- Applications must include a description of the project's cancer-relevance. (Limit 250 words)

Research Plan (limited to 6 pages, including figures, tables, and other relevant data)

- Specific Aims (no more than 1/2 page)
- Background and Innovation (limited to 1 page)
- Preliminary Studies (limited to 1-1/2 pages)
- Experimental Design, scientific rigor and future funding plan (limited to 3 pages)

References (no page limit)

Information Regarding Human Subjects

Address the following if the project **involves human subjects**.

- Provide a one-page document addressing the Protection of Human Subjects, if applicable.
- IRB Approval Status (please note: IRB approval is not required for full application submission, however **a delay in IRB approval does not alter the project end date**)
Pre submission discussion with the Wake Forest IRB is strongly suggested.

Information Regarding Live Vertebrates if applicable.

- IACUC Approval Status (please note: IACUC approval is not required for full application submission, however **a delay in IACUC approval does not alter the project end date**)



Budget and Justification (budget template plus 1-page justification)

- Complete the budget template form provided in REDCap along with a brief justification for the funds requested for this RFA. Please include an explanation of other resources that may be leveraged to support the project.
- Sub-awards to other institutions to carry out work on a project are not allowed.

NIH-style biographical sketch for all Key Personnel

Other Supporting Documents

Assistant Professors and Instructors are required to submit a letter of support from the chair or division head stating the independence of the application and the unit's commitment to the applicant.

Budget Guidelines

The budget period is for 12 months. Up to \$50K in direct costs may be requested. No indirect costs are allowed.

Grant funds may be budgeted for:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants
- Registration fees at scientific meetings
- Domestic travel necessary to perform the research
- Small equipment deemed necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project (less than \$2,000)

Grant funds may **not** be budgeted for:

- Salary of Principal Investigator
- Secretarial/Administrative salaries
- Student tuition and student fees including graduate and undergraduate foreign travel.
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Foreign travel
- Books and periodicals
- Per diem charges for hospital bed
- Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable expenses)
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Due and membership fees in scientific societies

Awarded funds must be used to conduct the work proposed. All direct charges to this award must adhere to federal regulations and requirements. The Director of ACS-IRG reserves the right to revoke funding in the event it is determined that funds were not spent in accordance with the approved protocol.



Review Criteria and Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the ACS-IRG review committee. Any IACUC and/or IRB protocols must be approved prior to funding of the approved pilot.

Reviewers will score applications from 1 to 9 based on:

1. Significance of the problem to be addressed.
2. Innovation of the proposed solutions.
3. Strength and breadth of the investigative team.
4. Methodological rigor and feasibility with clear milestones.
5. Likelihood the innovation will be broadly applicable and have impact on translational cancer research.
6. Other elements to be considered in the review include: the likelihood that the investment will lead to external funding or a licensable innovation

Other Guidelines

1. Prior to receiving funds, research involving human subjects must have appropriate approvals from the IRB. Either an IRB approval letter or an IRB response to a “Determination Whether Research or Similar Activities Require IRB Approval” must be submitted to the CCC prior to funds being released. Human subjects must be reviewed in accordance with the institution’s general assurances and HIPAA. All key personnel must have certification of training in the protection of human subjects prior to the start of the grant period.
2. Recipients are required to submit progress reports summarizing the results of the grant. A template and instructions will be provided the mid-point and conclusion of the grant.
3. As a result of your grant, you are required to submit annual updates for a total of 7 years documenting your publication and grant successes and plans. These reports are critical for successful ACS IRG grant renewal. Failure to submit a final report could jeopardize future funding to the individual and/or the institution.
4. Publications resulting from this award must contain the following acknowledgement: “Supported by ACS IRG-22-157-01-IRG from the American Cancer Society to the Wake Forest University Health Science.”
5. If the Cancer Center shared resources are used, acknowledgment to the Cancer Center Support Grant (P30CACA012197) is required and the publications must be submitted to PubMed Central.

Grant Administration

The Principal Investigator is responsible for the administration of grant funds. Projects will be for up to a 12-month period.

Contacts

For further information, please contact Ko Watabe, PhD (kwatabe@wakehealth.edu).

Questions about the REDCap system should be directed to Jackie Turner (jeturner@wakehealth.edu).