



American Cancer Society – Institutional Research Grant Request for Applications

Purpose and Overview

The purpose of the ACS-IRG Award is to support the development of exceptional cancer-related research projects for junior faculty members who are in the process of establishing independent cancer research programs, thus, advancing the objectives of the MCW Cancer Center. ACS distributes \$30,000 awards for a one-year award period. Awardees are eligible for supplement funding.

With keeping the end-result in mind, the goal of the individual ACS-IRG seed award is to generate pilot data to successfully compete for and obtain extramural peer-reviewed funding. A clear plan for how the pilot data will support development of subsequent external funding proposals is required.

2nd year Supplement Funding for the ACS-IRG: If awarded the ACS-IRG, PIs are eligible to apply for an ACS-IRG Supplement in the amount of \$20,000, which is an extension to the initial 1-year award (see the last page for instructions).

Priority Areas of Funding for the Current Funding Cycle

Studies in all areas of cancer research - laboratory, prevention and control, population, epidemiological and psychosocial cancer research (including quality of life research) - will be considered for funding. Applications for novel clinical projects (such as improvements of diagnostics and screening as well as genetic studies to improve prediction by identifying and understanding how genes and illnesses may be related) and for community-based projects are encouraged in addition to basic science projects. **Note: This mechanism does not provide support for clinical trials.**

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Eligibility

- Proposed research must be cancer relevant.
- MCW junior faculty (instructors and assistant professors) are eligible to apply. Applicants must be in their first six years of independent research or faculty appointment.
- Research can take place, and expenditures incurred, at MCW, Versiti BRI, Children's Research Institute or the Zablocki VAMC.
- Applicants cannot have any competitive, peer-reviewed, national funding at the start date of the proposed ACS funding. Peer-reviewed funding includes grants from the NIH (K-awards are allowed) or these [extramural organizations](#).
- Applicants with a visa must provide documentation that the visa terms allow enough time to complete the ACS-IRG pilot project.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek project advice and support from the appropriate Associate Director and/or Program Leader.



Evaluation

Each application will be assigned to internal and external reviewers who have substantial expertise in cancer research and in reviewing grants.

Review criteria include

- Standard NIH criteria (significance, innovation, approach and investigative team);
- Likelihood that preliminary results will lead to external peer-reviewed funding;
- Projects that promise to enhance collaborations between cancer outcomes disparities researchers and basic or translational scientists will be prioritized;
- Participation in CC programs (*e.g.*, attend program meetings, participate in grant review panels, participate in recurring seminars and symposia);
- A well thought out “Future Funding Plan” (see instructions) describing how funds will provide data that is critical to future extramural grant application(s);
- When appropriate, description of how the proposed research may ultimately produce IP (intellectual property, like patents).

Application Instructions - Please see the MCW Cancer Center website [here](#) for additional information and forms.

Application Format: Use standard 11-point font, single space, and half-inch margins throughout the application. Consecutively number all pages.

- **Cover Page:** To initiate, please click [here](#). This will take you to the Faculty Collaboration Database to sign in so that certain fields can be auto populated. Include project title, investigators and affiliations.
- **Scientific Abstract:** Provide a summary of the project. (250-word limit).
- **Lay Abstract:** Provide a brief summary of the proposed research project in layman’s terms. If funded, this abstract may be distributed to the funding source and can be used in written correspondence with donors and interested parties. (200-word limit).
- **Response to Reviewers:** (If applicable) Describe key changes that have been made in response to reviewer comments. (1-page limit).
- **Specific Aims:** State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the one-year project period. (1-page limit)
- **Research Strategy:**
 - a. Background-Significance-Innovation (1-page limit)
 - b. Approach (3-page limit)
- **Future Funding Plan:** Awardees are required to submit a timeline for an NCI R01 or equivalent cancer-relevant grant submission. State the agencies, mechanisms and timing of planned future grant applications that will utilize the preliminary data produced under this Idea Award. State how data from this application will be used to support extramural proposals. (200-word limit)



- **Budget:** Use [budget template](#) found on the Cancer Center webpage followed by a Budget Justification. Budget cap is \$50,000 direct costs. There are no indirect costs allowed. No faculty salaries, student tuition and fees, or equipment should be included. Faculty effort related to this award must be listed. Salary or stipend support for laboratory personnel, RAs, post-doctoral fellows, study coordinators, *etc.* may be included. Every budgeted item must be classified into a category (*e.g.*, personnel, supplies). Travel expenses will only be allowed when necessary to carry out the proposed research project. Any no-cost extensions will require review of the final report and prior approval by the ACS-IRG PI and CC Leadership.
- **Literature Cited:** List only references pertinent to the proposed research. References do not count against the page limit.
- **NIH-format Biosketches:** Biosketches for all faculty investigators must be included. Personal statements must include the specific role of the team member. In addition to the standard NIH-format biosketch sections (which include Current and Recent Research Support), include an additional Pending Support section that lists all pending grant applications. Describe any overlap or relationship between the pending application and this Idea Award application. Give the expected notification date for each pending application.
- **Form C: ACS Research Pilot Grant Certification**
- **Form D: Return on Investment.** Previous Cancer Center Pilot Grant recipients must complete.
- **Letters of Support:** Letters of support from the appropriate individuals, which may include your CC Research Program Leader, collaborator(s), and/or mentor (if pertinent).
- **Regulatory Approvals:** PIs are expected to obtain regulatory approvals [*e.g.*, IACUC and IRB] within three months of award decision. Please note that the funding cannot be released until required approvals have been obtained and uploaded in eBridge for any human and animal subject protocols
- **Junior Faculty:** Please include a mentoring plan with your application. (1-page limit). All applicants who have not had a previously funded peer-reviewed grant from the NIH or extramural organizations listed [here](#) must have a mentorship committee to assist in reading and providing feedback on the proposal. A mentorship committee must include a minimum of two faculty members (preferably one Cancer Center member). A letter of support from at least one of the mentorship committee members is required.

Timeline

While a formal Letter of Intent (LOI) is not required, please submit your anticipated project title and short description of the proposal to CRTE at ccpilotgrants@mcw.edu by 5:00pm on Friday, November 13, 2020.

Full applications are **due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2020**. Please email one PDF file of the application to CRTE (ccpilotgrants@mcw.edu). After peer review, notifications of award will be made; the start date will be dependent on the status of human and animal studies protocol approvals. CRTE will initiate and then work with approved PI's department administration to complete eBridge submission for selected proposals.

Program Expectations

- Publications, submission of an extramural grant application



- A final report is required upon project completion, including an outline of project results and grant applications submitted or planned for submission.
- R01 or equivalent grant submission within one year after pilot award period of execution.
- Awardees will be required to serve on pilot study sections for three years.
- Award recipients MUST acknowledge the MCW Cancer Center and the IRG funding (IRG-19-138-34) support from the American Cancer Society in any publications, scientific abstracts (where permitted), posters at scientific meetings, press releases or other media communications, and Internet-based communications. Award letters will indicate the appropriate funding source to acknowledge. Failure to acknowledge the MCW ACS-IRG funding in publications will preclude the applicant from applying for a supplement award.

No-Cost Extensions (NCE)

If you cannot complete your research activities prior to the award end date, you may request a 12-month no-cost extension (NCE). NCEs are limited to a maximum carryover of 25% of the original award amount and can only be approved once. Both the ACS-IRG initial award and ACS-IRG Supplemental award are eligible for an NCE.

To apply for an NCE, applicants should send an email to the CRTE team (ccpilotgrants@mcw.edu) expressing interest to apply no later than 60 days prior to the award end date. A member of the CRTE team will respond by emailing a request for additional materials. **The following items will be requested to process an NCE:**

- Completed NCE request form
- A current Grant Activity Summary Report (GASR) from Oracle
- Timeline of activities to take place during the extension period
- A written plan consisting of the scope of work and proposed scientific accomplishments, e.g.
 - Description of the remaining experiments
 - Additional Aims
 - Publications
 - Extramural grant funding opportunities
 - A list of completed/executed talks, posters, and/or journal publications where the awardee has acknowledged the ACS-IRG, if applicable, at the time of the NCE request

Requirements for the 2nd year Supplement Funding for the ACS-IRG

If awarded the ACS-IRG, PIs are eligible to apply for an ACS-IRG Supplement in the amount of \$20,000, which is an extension to the initial 1-year award. The supplement is funded through Cancer Center philanthropy and will require a separate application near the end of the original award period due to the different funding source. In order to qualify for the supplement, applications will undergo review to determine if sufficient progress has been made on the awarded project. The supplement application due date is the same as the RFA deadline. All supplement application materials must be submitted to the Cancer Research Training and Education (CRTE) team (ccpilotgrants@mcw.edu). **The following items will be requested to process a supplement application:**



- A proposal for supplement funding (to contain at minimum):
 - Scientific abstract
 - Hypothesis for the supplement application
 - Specific aims for the supplement project
 - A specific aims page for a tentative extramural grant application to be submitted and the timeline for the submission
 - Any preliminary data explaining what was accomplished during the original award period
 - Experimental design and a description of what piece of preliminary data the supplement award will provide for the upcoming extramural grant application by the awardee
 - Expected results and alternative approaches
 - A description of how the preliminary data expected from the supplement award will further aid the extramural grant proposal
 - Literature cited
 - Budget
 - Budget justification
 - Other materials as needed (e.g. cost sharing commitment, biostatistical review, ROI)
- A current Grant Activity Summary Report (GASR) from Oracle
- Biosketch or Curriculum Vitae (CV)

If awarded, the awardee is required to spend the entire amount of the initial award before funding from the supplement will be released. Supplements may be eligible for a No-Cost Extension.