

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM IN CANCER DIFFERENCES ACROSS POPULATIONS (TRPCDP) SPORE CAREER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

(APPLICATIONS DUE BY MARCH 15th, 2026)

The Translational Research Program in Cancer Differences Across Populations (TRPCDP) SPORE grant addresses gaps in understanding drivers of disparities in cancer risk and outcomes. The purpose of TRPCDP's Career Enhancement Program (CEP) is to support early career investigators interested in pursuing translational cancer disparities research projects related to any cancer type with a well-documented disparity, as well as Associate Professors without a prior track record in cancer disparities research to become engaged in this field. The CEP award is meant to develop potential future projects to be included in the renewal of our SPORE or that lead to new R type grants. The CEP award provides a flexible means of funding basic, clinical, and population sciences research with outstanding translational promise. Cornerstones of our program include identifying and providing multi-disciplinary mentors, assigning sponsors, and providing opportunities for leadership development as appropriate.

The CEP is interested in supporting translational cancer disparities research proposals across a range of fields, including molecular biology, epidemiology (primary and secondary prevention), risk prediction, early detection, prognosis, therapeutics, and survivorship. In addition to financial support, funded CEP projects will receive strong infrastructure support, access to biospecimens, data, and expertise related to novel technologies and statistical analyses through our Administrative, Biospecimen and Pathology and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Cores as well as training in cancer disparities research offered through our Career Enhancement Program. Given this support, investigators do not need to have prior experience conducting disparities oriented research.

Available Resources

The TRPCDP has accumulated sizable resources, including a large number of tissue samples from racially and ethnically diverse patients and detailed clinical data that are available to all applicants. We will help investigators to identify needed resources for CEP projects. If this is of interest, we encourage the investigators to reach out to us ASAP (trpcd@fredhutch.org). Applicants are also welcome to utilize data and specimens from any source available to them.

Funding Priorities

Priority for funding will be given to proposals that are feasible within the award period, are multi-disciplinary, likely to lead to a future full SPORE project, and have translational potential to impact cancer disparities. The CEP will fund translational research across cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment with human endpoints.

Priority Research Areas

The immediate goal of the CEP is to identify impactful projects with the potential to advance to a SPORE project or R type grant. The ultimate goal of the program is to fund projects that will lead to a reduction in the morbidity and mortality of cancer among populations that experience disparities.

Cancer disparities research areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- New preventative agents
- Novel prevention approaches (including dietary and lifestyle interventions)
- Novel early detection strategies
- Genetic and environmental factors that enhance susceptibility
- Factors that contribute to cancer progression or recurrence
- New prognostic or predictive markers
- Novel treatments or therapeutic approaches

- Efforts that will help to support the development of a new clinical trial (to test novel methods to prevent, diagnose or treat cancer with the potential to reduce cancer disparities)
- Population, behavioral, or psychosocial studies that address mechanistic aspects of the cancer biology
- Health-related quality of life and patient decision-making studies
- Tumoral immune response
- Biological aging and cancer progression
- Interventions designed to increase rates of cancer screening

All proposals must be applicable to cancer disparities, but otherwise can cover the full spectrum of basic, population, and clinical research.

Eligibility

1. Fellows in their final year of clinical or post-doctoral fellowship who will continue on to an independent faculty appointment at one of the TRPCDP participating institutions.
2. Assistant Professors (or equivalent), with or without prior experience in cancer disparities research.
3. Associate Professors (or equivalent), with no prior experience in translational cancer disparities research but with a strong interest in engaging in this field.

Awards

All proposals in compliance with the stated requirements will be peer-reviewed and scored on the basis of scientific merit and the degree to which the proposal meets the CEP's primary purposes and career development plans. If selected for funding, a formal award letter outlining the terms and conditions of this award will be sent to both the applicant and applicant's Institutional Official. Fred Hutch awardees may receive funds via a project ID; external awardees will receive funds via subaward with additional terms.

Award Terms

CEP Project awardees must agree in advance to the following funding requirements that are put in place to support the successful conduct of the Pilot Projects and overall success of the CEP:

- All awards are subject to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) and all applicable requirements of the [NCI P50 Program](#)
- Participate in P50-related educational and scientific activities, including training on community-based participatory research and cancer disparities research through the duration of the full SPORE award (this includes beyond the period of CEP funding)
- Meet with the assigned CEP mentor at the initiation of the project and quarterly thereafter
- Meet with the Co-Directors of the Biospecimen and Pathology Core (BPC) and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core (BBC),
- Present the proposal concept and specific aims to the TRPCDP Executive Committee (EC) at the time of project initiation and quarterly thereafter
- Meetings with other EC members, Project leaders, Core leaders as desired/ appropriate.
- At the end of year 1, submit a written progress report on progress toward specific aims and milestones, primary findings, submitted and funded grants, and scientific meeting abstracts and publications
- Present findings at the annual TRPCDP retreat
- Additionally, mentors will each be asked to provide brief written assessment of their mentee's progress and productivity

Support for Awardees

The CEP Executive Committee will work with all new CEP awardees to identify two complementary mentors from different disciplines (drawn from any of our participating TRPCDP institutions) and a sponsor from their home institution. This CEP mentors will meet with their mentees at the beginning of the project to review the project's specific aims, methodology, approach, and milestones, and to discuss

details related to its execution and needed resources and approvals. Thereafter, they will meet quarterly to address any new issues regarding the proposed work. Awardees will also meet with one or more of the SPORE MPIs and the SPORE project Manager, the Co-Directors of the Biospecimen and Pathology Core at the initiation of funding to review plans for biospecimen use and needs for laboratory technologies and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core (BBC) to review study design and data analysis plans. This is to ensure that the awardee is fully aware of the available resources and access to Shared Resources technologies and becomes familiar with the needed IRB and study approvals for projects utilizing the available biospecimens. All CEP project leaders will receive training in community-based participatory research to strengthen collaborations with the different racial and ethnic populations included in the TRPCDP.

Proposal

Proposals should include the following documents, in this order, as one complete PDF:

- Letter of Intent (non-FHCC institutions)
- Biographical Sketch (NIH format) for the Principal Investigator
- NIH Form Page 2
 - Project Summary (1/2 page maximum, provide a brief description of the proposed work: overall goals, specific aims, research design and methods)
 - Relevance (2-3 sentences summarizing the impact of the proposed work on public health)
- Budget including direct costs and indirect costs (at institutional rate) for each year of funding
- Budget Justification
- Research Plan (2 page maximum, including *Specific Aims*, *Significance* (that includes a specific description of the disparity the project seeks to address), *Innovation*, *Approach*, *Translational Potential* and *Future Plans/Anticipated Impact*) – use the [PHS 398 Continuation Format Page](#)
- Career Development Plan (1 page maximum – describing short-term and long-term career goals and anticipated milestones; also describing anticipated impact of receiving CEP funding)
- Human Subjects and/or Vertebrate Animals (as applicable) covering the proposed research
- Bibliography and References Cited
- Appendix (2-page maximum, do not use to expand the research plan)
- IRB or IACUC approval if it has been obtained. If not, please indicate timeline to obtain full approval IRB or IACUC approval as needed.

Letter of Intent

If applying from an institution other than Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, a Letter of Intent, signed by the applicant's Institutional Official, must be included.

Fred Hutch applicants:

A Hutch Grants proposal is not necessary at the application stage, but a letter of intent signed by the PI is required indicating the award category the application is responding to. However, if awarded, it may be required that a proposal be entered and sign-off obtained from the Office of Sponsored Research prior to the start of the project.

NIH Biographical Sketch

A [Biographical Sketch](#) in NIH format should be included for the PI only. For additional information regarding the format and content of the Biographical Sketch please reference the [NIH Biosketch guidelines](#)

NIH 398 Form Page 2

Complete [Form Page 2](#) according to [NIH Instructions](#)

Performance Site(s)

List the site(s) at which the proposed work will be completed. Complete all the applicable fields for each site.

Senior/Key Personnel

Complete all fields for the project PI and any additional individuals contributing effort and to the scientific development or execution of the proposed work.

Other Significant Contributors

Complete all fields for any individuals contributing to the scientific development or execution of the proposed work, but not committing measurable effort.

Human Embryonic Stem Cells

Complete the Human Embryonic Stem Cell section for the proposed work.

Budget

Complete a budget using the [NIH detailed 398 Budget Form/](#) Form Page 4. Funds may be used for personnel (including the PI) postdoctoral fellows, students, and technical personnel], supplies, and other justifiable expenses. CEP funds *cannot be used for the purchase of any large equipment*.

Awarded amount will be \$50,000 direct costs per year for up to two years (\$100,000 direct costs over two years). The award period is 09/01/2026–08/31/2028. The submitted budget should be for a maximum of \$50,000 direct costs per year and applicants may submit for either one year or two years. Please submit a detailed budget for each year and include indirect costs. Indirect costs will be added to award based on direct cost totals.

Budget Justification

Provide justification for each expense in sufficient detail to allow reviewers to determine that the budget is appropriate for the proposed work. Include a short narrative for all personnel describing position, role, and requested level of effort. If consultants or subcontracts are requested, provide a description of the services to be performed. No specific form required.

Human Subjects and/or Vertebrate Animals

An additional page should be included to address plans for Human Subjects and/or Vertebrate Animal use. No specific form is required. Consult [PHS 398 Form Instructions](#) and [PHS Human Subjects Form](#) for additional detail. An approved IRB protocol is required (or approved modification of existing protocol) in order for an award to be granted; thus, proposals with IRB approvals already in submitted or in place will be given higher priority during review. If IRB approval is pending please indicate a timeline to obtain approval.

Appendix

An Appendix limited to two pages for tables and figures may be included.

Bibliography and References Cited

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Research Plan. References are not included in any of the page limits.

Award Requirements/JIT

- Approved IRB protocol (or approved modification of existing protocol) for proposals that include human subjects research as defined by the NIH.
- Tribal approval, when indicated (i.e., inclusion of Alaska Native people and/or their biospecimens in proposal).
- Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table.
- Human Subjects Training Certification for all Key Personnel listed in proposals that include human subjects research.
- Approved IACUC protocol (or approved modification of existing protocol) for research

- including the use of vertebrate animals.
- Animal Care Training Certification for all Key Personnel listed in proposals that include vertebrate animals.

All IRB and IACUC files **must be fully approved** before an award can be made.

Funding Period

The proposed period of funding for this cycle is either 12 or 24 months, beginning September 1st, 2026 and ending either August 31st, 2027 (for one year award) or August 31st, 2028 (for the two year award).

Submission

One PDF copy of the complete proposal must be received no later than 5:00 PM PST on March 15th, 2026, at the following email address: trpcd@fredhutch.org

For questions, contact: Sushma Thomas ssstomas@fredhutch.org or trpcd@fredhutch.org

TRPCDP Executive Committee:

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