

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM IN CANCER DIFFERENCES ACROSS POPULATIONS (TRPCDP) SPORE

AVAILABILITY OF PILOT FUNDS – 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 the Developmental Research Program (DRP) for the TRPCDP is to support early-phase translational cancer disparities research projects related to any cancer type with a well-documented disparity. The DRP 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 DRP provides a flexible means of funding basic, clinical, and population sciences research with outstanding translational promise.

In addition to SPORE-funded DRP awards, the TRPCDP also administers the Smith Family Health Disparities Research Awards, made possible by philanthropic support and awarded through the DRP. The DRP 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 DRP 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 DRP 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 DRP will fund translational research across cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment with human endpoints.

The highest priority for funding will be given to translational research projects demonstrating collaboration between clinicians and research scientists. Translational research is defined as research involving the flow of information from the clinic or clinical materials to the bench, or vice-versa (i.e., a probability of leading to new methods to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer). Of particular priority are projects that have the potential to lead to a clinical trial that could be a future full SPORE project.

Priority Research Areas

The immediate goal of the DRP 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

Applications are invited from any researcher who is eligible to apply for NIH R01 grants. Investigators new to the field of cancer disparities demonstrating an interest in working in this field, junior faculty with evidence of exceptional talent during post-doctoral residency or fellowship training, and senior faculty with a track record for conducting significant original research are encouraged to apply.

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 DRP's primary purposes. 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 for both NCI SPORE DRP Awards and Smith Family Health Disparities Awards:

NCI SPORE DRP awardees and Smith Family Health Disparities Research Award Recipients 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 DRP:

- Participate in TRPCDP SPORE-related educational and scientific activities, including training on community-based participatory research and cancer disparities research.
- If applicable, meet with the assigned DRP 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.
- 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 in-person TRPCDP retreat.

Additional Award Terms Specific for NCI SPORE DRP Awards:

NCI SPORE DRP awards are subject to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), and all applicable requirements of the [NCI P50 Program](#)

Additional Award Terms Specific for Smith Family Health Disparities Awards:

The Smith Family Health Disparities Research Awards are made possible by philanthropic support, which reflects the hope and confidence of our donor community. A Philanthropy writer may contact you to learn more for reporting to the donors. You may also be asked to participate in donor-facing activities. All Smith Family Awards must have a Fred Hutch-based PI or MPI.

Support for Awardees

Awardees who are junior investigators and/or are new to cancer disparities research will be assigned a member of the Executive Committee (see below) to work closely with as a DRP mentor. This DRP mentor will meet with the DRP project leader(s) 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 DRP 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 including which DRP funding mechanism the proposal is in response to SPORE DRP (max \$100K direct costs per award for 2 years) or Smith Family Health Disparities Research Award (max \$250K direct costs per award for 2 years); indirect costs (at the institutional rate) will be added to awards in addition to direct costs.
- 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](#)
- 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 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 [PI (up to 5% FTE for senior and 10% for junior investigators), postdoctoral fellows, students, and technical personnel], supplies, and other justifiable expenses. DRP funds *cannot be used for the purchase of any large equipment*. There are two funding levels available:

SPORE DRP Award:

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 provide a detailed budget for each year and include indirect costs. Indirect costs will be added to award based on direct cost totals.

Smith Family Health Disparities Research Award:

Applications for this award must have a Fred Hutch based PI. Awarded amount will be \$125,000 direct costs per year for up to two years (\$250,000 direct costs over two years). The award period is 09/01/2026–08/31/2028. The submitted budget should be for a maximum of \$125,000 direct costs per year and applicants may submit for either one year or two years. Please provide a detailed budget for each year and include indirect costs. Indirect costs will be added to award based on direct costs 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 is 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 August 31st, 2027 (for the one year award) or ending 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 ssthomas@fredhutch.org or trpcd@fredhutch.org

TRPCDP Executive Committee:

Christopher Li, MD, PhD

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