

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM IN CANCER DISPARITIES (TRPCD) SPORE

AVAILABILITY OF PILOT FUNDS- REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

(APPLICATIONS DUE BY EOD Aug 9th, 2024)

The newly funded Translational Research Program in Cancer Disparities (TRPCD) SPORE grant addresses gaps in understanding drivers of disparities in cancer risk and outcomes. The purpose of the Developmental Research Program (DRP) for the TRPCD is to support early-phase projects in the area of translational cancer disparities research related to any cancer type with a well-documented disparity among racial and ethnic populations. The DRP is meant to develop potential future projects to be included in TRPCD SPORE renewal or independent R type of grants. The DRP provides a flexible means of funding basic, clinical, and population sciences research with outstanding translational promise.

The DRP is interested in 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 experience, but must bring a strong interest conducting research that will lead to reduction in cancer health disparities.

Available Resources

The TRPCD 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).

Funding Priority

Priority for funding will be given to proposals for studies that are feasible within the award period, are multi-disciplinary, likely to lead to a project for a full SPORE application and have translational potential ultimately affecting cancer disparities. The DRP will fund translational research in various areas of cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment with human endpoints.

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 underserved populations.

Targeted research areas include, but are not limited to, the following topics as related to cancer disparities:

- Tumoral immune response
- Risk Prediction
- Novel prevention approaches, including dietary interventions
- Biological aging and cancer progression

- Novel biomarkers for early detection in underserved populations
- 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
- Population, behavioral, or psychosocial studies that address mechanistic aspects of the cancer biology

All proposals must be applicable to health disparities in cancer, but otherwise can cover the full spectrum of basic, population, and clinical research. While pilot projects focusing on early detection are within the scope, those focused on improving cancer screening are outside the scope of this funding announcement.

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. Investigators from underrepresented minority groups 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

DRP 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 DRP:

- All awards are subject to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), the [NCI P50 Program](#)
- Participate in P50-related educational and scientific activities, including training on community-based participatory research and cancer disparities research
- 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 TRPCD 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 TRPCD retreat

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 address any new issues regarding the proposed work. Awardees will also meet with 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 TRPCD.

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
- Budget (direct and indirect costs)
- Budget Justification
- 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)
- Research Plan (2 page maximum, including Specific Aims, *Significance*, *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)
- 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. 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 example](#)

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. Note that subawards are not allowed for this funding mechanism.

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*.

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 09/01/2024–08/31/2025. 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.

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 12 months, beginning September 1st, 2024 and ending August 31st, 2025.

Submission

One PDF copy of the complete proposal must be received no later than 5:00 PM PST on August 9th, 2024, at the following email address: trpcd@fredhutch.org

For questions, contact:

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TRPCD Executive Committee:

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