## RFA: Career Enhancement Awards for SPORE in Prostate Cancer P50 CA180995

The SPORE Career Enhancement Program (led by Drs. Maha Hussain and Suzanne Conzen) supports 1-2 junior investigators per year to conduct translational research projects. At this time, we are soliciting applications from interested investigators for the NCI-funded SPORE in Prostate Cancer. Per the instructions from the National Cancer Institute, the emphasis must focus on translational research that "uses knowledge of human biology to develop and test the feasibility of cancer-relevant interventions in humans and/or determines the biological basis for observations made in individuals with cancer or in populations at risk for cancer". Investigators who are interested in utilizing specimens for their projects should consult with the SPORE **Biospecimen Procurement Core** (Jian- Jun Wei, MD; Ximing Yang, MD, PhD; Mark Lingen, DDS, PhD; Karen Kaul, MD, PhD) prior to submitting an application. They should also include biostatistical analysis (consult with SPORE biostatisticians: Borko Jovanovic, PhD; Denise Scholtens, PhD). <u>Applications will be considered for both Year 05 of the funded SPORE plus the SPORE renewal application to be submitted May 25, 2019.</u>

### SCOPE OF RESEARCH
- Prostate specific research
- Emphasis on translational research
- Potential to reach a human endpoint within five years

### ELIGIBILITY
- Investigators must hold a faculty appointment as assistant professor or instructor at Northwestern University or University of Chicago.
- SPORE funded investigators are **required** to attend monthly SPORE meetings (via videoconference or phone if out of town).
- Career Enhancement Program applicants should include a mentorship committee (one member must be a SPORE investigator) with whom they will meet quarterly to discuss the project and any concerns or accomplishments. Meeting logs must be submitted to the SPORE administrator.

### FUNDING
Funding is $40,000 for a period of one year with the potential for second year renewal.

### SELECTION
Applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the SPORE Executive Committee (Project and Core leaders). Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Significance: The potential significance of the research proposed for the near future.

- Approach: Adequacy of methods to address question.

- Innovation: Originality and novelty of the experimental design as it relates to prostate cancer research.

- Feasibility: Likelihood of accomplishing project goals within the grant period.

- Scientific merit and translational potential

- Investigator's qualifications and likelihood to pursue a career in prostate cancer research.

- Investigator's collaborative activities

Funding decisions will be announced by June 3, 2019 with a start date of August 1, 2019.

**ACUC and IRB**
CEP awardees must obtain necessary ACUC and IRB approvals before they can receive any SPORE funds.

**APPLICATION**
- Detailed NIH budget for one year (old NIH 398 budget form)
- Budget justification
- Biographical sketch
- Letter of nomination from Department Chair
- Project Description (maximum 2 pages)
  - Lay language description of project relevance- no more than 1-2 sentences
  - Significance
    - Explain the importance of the problem or the critical barrier to progress in translational cancer research that the proposed project addresses
  - Innovation
    - Explain how the project challenges and seeks to shift current translational research or clinical practice paradigms
  - Approach
    - Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Career Development Plan of seminars, symposia, mentor committee meetings, grant applications (1 page max)

**DEADLINE**
The deadline for applications is: **Wednesday March 20, 2019 at 5 PM**. Please submit as a single PDF electronically to Robin Leikin, Ph.D., Scientific Program Administrator, at: **rleikin@northwestern.edu**