

Developmental Research Program 2019

RFA: Pilot Projects for NCI-Funded SPORE in Prostate Cancer P50 CA180995

The Developmental Research Program of the SPORE in Prostate Cancer (P50 CA180995) supports 4-5 translational pilot projects per year. At this time, we are soliciting applications from interested investigators for Year 05 of the five-year grant plus pilots for the renewal application due May 25, 2019.

Per the instructions from the National Cancer Institute, projects must focus on research that has application to patients or patient samples and strong translational potential. The expectation is that successful pilot studies may replace full projects that are not progressing satisfactorily with regard to translational research objectives within the SPORE. **Therefore, pilot projects must demonstrate clear potential to translate between basic science and clinical science.**

Investigators who are interested in obtaining prostate tissue specimens for a pilot project should consult with the **SPORE Specimen Procurement Core** (Jian-Jun Wei, MD; Ximing Yang, MD, PhD; Karen Kaul, MD, PhD; Mark Lingen, DDS, PhD) *prior* to submitting an application. They should also include biostatistical analysis (consult with SPORE biostatisticians: Borko Jovanovic, PhD or Denise Scholtens, PhD).

SCOPE OF RESEARCH

- Prostate cancer specific
- Emphasis on translational research
- Potential to reach patients within five years

ELIGIBILITY

- Investigators must hold a faculty appointment at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago or NorthShore University HealthSystem.
- Investigators who have previously received funding through the SPORE are eligible to apply.
- SPORE meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm; all SPORE funded investigators **are required** to attend at least 80% of SPORE meetings.

FUNDING

Funding is \$40,000 for a period of one year with the potential for second year renewal. Subcontracts are discouraged as it reduces the dollars available to conduct the research project.

SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the SPORE Executive Committee. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit relative to prostate cancer translational research
- 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 project period.
- Investigator's qualifications
- Investigator's collaborative activities/synergy with other national funding mechanisms
- Potential to become a full SPORE project or to obtain national (RO1 or equivalent) funding

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

ACUC and IRB

Given the short, one-year term of this award, we recommend that applicants begin seeking necessary ACUC, IRB, and any other necessary institutional approvals (conflict of interest, institutional endorsement, etc) at the time of submission. This will expedite award distribution.

APPLICATION

- Detailed NIH budget using the old NIH 398 Form
- Budget justification
- Biographical sketch
- Project Description (2 page maximum)
 - Lay language description of project relevance – 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
 - Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Unless addressed elsewhere include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.

DEADLINE

The deadline for all applications is: **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5 PM**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please submit the application as a single PDF electronically to:

Robin Leikin, PhD, Scientific Program Director at: rleikin@northwestern.edu