

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Full Research Projects for possible inclusion in competing renewal application for the NCI-funded SPORE in Prostate Cancer P50 CA180995

Due: July 20, 2018

At this time, we are requesting proposals for prostate cancer research projects for inclusion in our Prostate SPORE competitive renewal application due May 25, 2019. Before submitting, the **SPORE Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)** should be carefully reviewed and considered as it outlines the overall scope and direction of projects:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-313.html>

Proposals will be evaluated on the strength of the science, how well the project addresses key SPORE requirements and compatibility with the goals of the SPORE in Prostate Cancer. Information about current SPORE projects and cores can be found at:
<http://cancer.northwestern.edu/research/research-programs/clinical/trist/prostate-cancer-spore/index.html>

Priority Research Areas

The SPORE is soliciting applications from laboratory scientists and clinical investigators with experience in developing novel approaches to prevention or treatment of prostate cancer. Each project must have at least one clinical investigator and one basic scientist. Projects may focus on:

- Early Detection
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Imaging Detection
- Biomarkers
- Population Science

Selection Priority

Priority will be given to **translational research projects** that demonstrate a collaboration between clinicians and research scientists. The NCI defines translational research as follows: ***“Translational research 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.”*** The term “Interventions” includes molecular assays, imaging techniques, drugs, biological agents, and/or other methodologies applicable to the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, prognosis, and/or treatment of cancer. SPORE translational research projects may involve the use of any molecular, structural, biochemical, and/or genetic experimental approaches.

The criteria for evaluating submitted applications will be:

- 1) scientific merit
- 2) translational focus
- 3) relevance to prostate cancer
- 4) innovation
- 5) qualifications of the investigative team to perform the proposed research,
- 6) research environment

7) strength of preliminary data.

At least one of the following types of human endpoints should be proposed in each SPORE research project:

- Early phase clinical trials of new investigational drugs and biologics, experimental procedures, medical devices, or combinations thereof, or
- Early phase clinical trials of new combinations or new uses of the FDA-approved agents and devices, or
- Discovery and development of biomarkers, only when measurements are made in human specimens, or directly in human subjects, or
- IND-directed toxicology studies conducted following a pre-IND meeting with the FDA in which the plan proposed by the investigators is acceptable to the FDA, or
- Population, behavioral, or psychosocial studies, when these studies address mechanistic aspects of the biology of the disease with laboratory studies, or
- Clinical studies that lead to laboratory studies, which address new clinical hypotheses.

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Applications are limited to Northwestern University, University of Chicago and NorthShore University faculty with a funding history who have a demonstrable research expertise in the field of prostate cancer.

APPLICATION PROCESS: (5-page proposal maximum) The first page should contain the name of the project co-leaders with complete mailing address, e-mail address and a half-page abstract that clearly states the hypothesis, its importance to prostate cancer, the specific aims of the project, and the proposed experimental approach. Background, Preliminary Data, Proposed Experiments, Figures and References may not exceed 5 pages (11 pt font). NIH-style Biosketch with Other Support must accompany the application. The application documents should be submitted as one single PDF file **by July 20 to Robin Leikin, PhD, Scientific Program Director at rleikin@northwestern.edu.**

Selection Process and Timelines

A Scientific Review Committee to be led by Sarki Abdulkadir, MD, PhD, that includes the Prostate SPORE PIs, will review the applications and will select potential projects for presentation by the applicants at a SPORE meeting (August 8 or September 12) and also at the External Advisory Board/Internal Advisory Board meeting to be held October 10, 2018. The Executive Committee will approve the final projects for inclusion in the renewal application. A formal notice will be issued to successful applicants outlining the requirements for submitting a complete proposal and budget within the timeline of the SPORE's competing renewal application cycle. In the interest of building horizontal and vertical collaborative opportunities, both the project leader and co-leader are expected to participate in as many of the SPORE-related meetings as possible.

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