Request for Applications
JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR CANCER PILOT PROJECT GRANTS
ACS Institutional Research Grant - 2021

Michael Bouvet, MD, the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center (MCC), and the local Committee of the American Cancer Society (ACS) Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG-19-230-48-IRG) are pleased to announce the availability of seed money to stimulate cancer research projects of high merit among junior investigators at UCSD.

Amount: Up to $50,000 per award, up to four, 1-year awards (one of the four awards will be specifically granted as part of the ACS’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy for creating new initiatives for increasing diversity in cancer research)

For each award, $30,000 from the ACS, additional $20,000 supplemented by MCC

Deadline: 5:00 PM September 1, 2021

Eligibility:

- Assistant professor within six years of the first independent faculty (or equivalent) appointment.
- Must be eligible to apply as principal investigator for grant support from national agencies. The applicant cannot be PI of an NIH, NSF, or DoD grant, but can hold career development grants solely intended for salary (e.g., NIH K award). Applicant cannot be PI of an active ACS award of any kind. Investigators with NIH R00 awards are not eligible. Please contact us if you have eligibility questions.
- PI can hold small foundation grants, provided they are not the result of a national peer-reviewed competition and support different projects.
- Investigator must be independent and have a commitment from the institution for salary and space.
- Individual whose initial nationally competitive research grant was not renewed, and who meets other eligibility criteria is eligible. Investigators with a grant in a no cost extension are not eligible.
- Applicant is not required to be a US citizen, but must hold a visa that will allow them to remain in the US long enough to complete the pilot project.
- 2021 ACS-IRG awardees are eligible to apply for a 1-year competitive renewal of their previously funded ACS pilot project grant. Renewal applications must document the progress made against outlined aims over the previous funding period. Previous awardees may not apply for a pilot grant on a different topic.
- To be considered for the ACS Underrepresented Minority (URM) Junior Investigator award, along with the requirements above, the ACS requires that the PI must be from a racial or ethnic group considered to be an underrepresented minority (URM) in science by the National Science Foundation, namely, African American (or Black), American Indian and Alaska Native, Hispanic (or Latino), Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander
Evaluation Criteria:

All research disciplines are encouraged and accepted. The MCC Pilot Grants Program will appoint an independent Review Committee to conduct an NIH-style peer review of applications. The Review Committee will evaluate the following aspects of each application:

- **Scientific merit of the proposed research**, e.g., hypothesis driven, appropriate aims and techniques to attain goals; sound study design that will contribute valuable, valid, and meaningful data.
- **Significance of the proposed research**, e.g., the proposal addresses an important problem and/or a critical need for rapid progress beyond current approaches or applications.
- **Novelty of the proposed research, advancing the field**, e.g., the proposed project capitalizes on unique populations/ environments, specialized expertise, new concepts/ perspectives, innovative methodologies, and/or emerging technologies.
- **Degree to which the research will have a positive impact on the detection, treatment or prevention of cancer or pre-cancer, and/or patients with cancer**, e.g., alignment with the mission of Moores Cancer Center (cancer prevention, detection, and care) and/or American Cancer Society (save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer); what impact could the findings ultimately have on cancer patients and/or their care?
- **Pilot Project Justification/Likelihood that the project will lead to significant follow-on funding and/or return on investment**, e.g., meaningful preliminary data will be generated for potential future grant funding.
- **Likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals given the budget requested, institutional and other available resources.**

Submission:

Applications are accepted only electronically: [http://moores.ucsd.edu/Admin/grants-in-aid.asp](http://moores.ucsd.edu/Admin/grants-in-aid.asp)
The application form, budget guidelines and FAQs can be found at the same link.

Selection Process:

All research disciplines are encouraged and accepted. Applications must demonstrate a clear relevance to cancer, and applicants evidencing a history of cancer-relevant research will be favored. Proposals will be reviewed and scored by the UCSD ACS-IRG Committee according to NIH Study Section procedures. Individual notifications and general announcements will be issued in the fall of 2021.

Application Guidelines:

The ACS award is not intended to support faculty salaries, to supplement existing research contracts or grants, or to be utilized as bridge funding pending renewal support of projects. Funds cannot be used for foreign travel. See online guidelines for additional formatting and budget instructions.

Awardees will be required to submit a progress report at the end of the project period and provide updates for the ACS-IRG grant renewal. Publications resulting from awards must acknowledge “**Supported by American Cancer Society IRG Grant # IRG-19-230-48-IRG and UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, Specialized Cancer Center Support Grant NIH/NCI P30CA023100.**”

Contact:

Amy Spilkin, Ph.D., (858) 534-7722 or aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu