

**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH GRANT
FALL 2020 PILOT PROJECTS**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 2020 BY 5 PM CST

Application Website: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e929f500203847a291e838d26848ed86>

The American Cancer Society (ACS) Institutional Research Grant (IRG) is the only campus-based, cancer-related funding specifically targeted to junior faculty members. ACS IRG pilot projects are one year in length and are awarded up to \$50,000 (\$30,000 from ACS with matched funds of up to \$20,000 from UWCCC).

We invite junior faculty from **all** UW-Madison departments and colleges who have an interest in independent cancer research to apply. In addition, applicants who have a special research interest in addressing cancer in the poor and underserved, or **cancer health disparities**, are highly encouraged to apply.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants to the ACS IRG must be new investigators who are within the first 6 years of their independent faculty appointment. Both tenure track and CHS faculty are eligible to apply.

The intent of this pilot project funding is to support independent, self-directed young investigators, who would be eligible to apply for independent national research grants, but do **not** currently hold such a grant at the time of the application (such as NIH, NSF, ACS, DOD, etc.). Individuals who previously had an initial nationally peer-reviewed grant that was not renewed, and otherwise meet eligibility requirements, may apply.

The following criteria detail further eligibility requirements:

- Support is not permitted for senior investigators or postdoctoral fellows
- Individuals who are supported by a small local or foundation grant may apply as long as the currently existing grant is not the result of a national peer-reviewed competition
- Recipients of a personnel/career development type of grant such as the NIH K award, or other grants intended to support a junior investigator's salary, may apply.
- If a recipient of an IRG pilot project grant is not a citizen or noncitizen national of the United States or its possessions and territories and is not a lawful permanent resident, that recipient must verify that they can lawfully remain in the United States for the duration of the one-year pilot project.

Program Areas:

Basic Research – For example (but not limited to), aspects of cell and molecular biology underlying cancer progression and proliferation, metastasis, signal transduction, gene expression, DNA damage/repair, tumor microenvironment, virology, model organisms that are relevant to cancer-related mechanisms, and engineering approaches to understand basic mechanisms of cancer biology.

Clinical Research – Including translational studies, pilot studies designed to identify novel markers of progression, clinical imaging approaches, therapeutics, engineering approaches to

develop diagnostic or imaging tools, basic research that has a clear clinical/translational component, and aspects of clinical treatment and management of patients.

Population and Quality of Life Research – Research to reduce risk, incidence and deaths from cancer in populations, including studies of cancer etiology, prevention, early detection modalities, diagnosis, care delivery, and methods to maximize the length and quality of life after diagnosis.

Cancer Health Disparities – Research in any of the above areas that specifically emphasizes cancer in underserved communities. See the ACS Definition of Cancer Health Disparities section of this RFA for more information.

Additional Program Details:

All applicants receive feedback from the review committee on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

Recipients of the Institutional Research Grant project funding will:

- Have opportunities to interact with the local ACS chapter
- Be provided with mentoring opportunities
- Participate in an annual retreat with other awardees, IRG mentors and review committee members, and ACS representatives

Career Development Opportunities for Pilot Project Grantees: Recipients of pilot funds will be required to participate in a half-day campus retreat for grantees during or after their funded year. Each grantee will present their project and progress, as well as future directions, in a 15 min presentation. Opportunities for informal discussion will also be built into the schedule. The Review Committee and awardee mentors are expected to participate. Previous grantees will also be invited to participate, as well as interested members of the local ACS chapter.

Competitive Renewal: Contingent on the renewal of the parent grant that provides the funds for this pilot program, each awardee will be eligible for a second year of funding by submitting a competitive renewal application. This application will be scored with the new applications for that funding cycle. In particular, progress on the goals of the original proposal and a plan for subsequent grant submission will be a key aspect of determining whether a second year of funding is to be awarded. Awardees will be eligible to apply for a subsequent year following the completion of their first award. New projects unrelated to the first year of funding will not be considered, per ACS guidelines for IRG grants.

Feedback and Revised Applications: Receiving concrete feedback from the internal review committee is an important part of learning to write an effective grant proposal. Thus, for applications that are not funded, applicants will have the opportunity to revise their proposals based on feedback and to resubmit in subsequent grant cycles, provided the applicant still fits the other criteria of this program.

Budget:

All applications must include a proposed budget for plans to spend up to \$50,000. If fewer funds are needed, then the budget may request a lower amount.

Expenditures Allowed:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance; Costs of computer time; Special fees (pathology, photography, use of core facilities, etc); Technical assistance
- Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program
- Publication costs, including reprints; Registration fees at scientific meetings
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member

- Equipment costing less than \$2,000 (special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount)

Expenditures NOT allowed:

- Salary of principal investigator (pilot project grant recipient)
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers; Foreign travel
- Tuition for graduate students; Secretarial/administrative salaries
- Books and periodicals; Membership dues; Office and laboratory furniture; Office equipment and supplies; Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Non-medical services to patients; Per-diem charges for hospital beds
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories

Application Deadline: Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 by 5 pm CST

Tentative Application Review and Award Announcement: January 2021

Tentative Funding Start Date: February 2021

See the following Application Process page for information on how to apply.

ACS Definition of Cancer Health Disparities:

The American Cancer Society has identified a major goal of eliminating disparities in the cancer burden experienced by many in the US. In a 2017 report, the ACS, in collaboration with the AACR, ASCO, and NCI, discussed cancer disparities:

“Disparities in outcomes across the cancer continuum have been identified in numerous medically underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities and patients of lower socioeconomic status. In addition to individual social status, social contextual and community factors, such as neighborhood safety, social cohesion, availability of healthy foods, and residential segregation, play an important role in the health of both individuals and populations. All of these factors can intersect to create larger disparities.”

The ACS Community Health Initiatives were created with this as motivation – To “address the unequal burden of cancer by reaching individuals in underserved communities in collaboration with community partners. Together, we strive to promote health equity and ensure equal access to cancer education and screenings for all individuals.”

UWCCC has identified cancer disparities as an important focus for future research, and a dedicated special interest award will be used to support junior faculty in initiating promising research in this area.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

All investigators requesting support from the ACS IRG for an investigator-initiated project must submit an application to the Local IRG Review Committee including the PI and current title, anticipated co-investigators, and project title.

Applications are due **December 15th, 2020**, and must be submitted electronically via the **UWCCC Pilot Program Application** website: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e929f500203847a291e838d26848ed86>.

Log in using your UW NetID.

- 1) Fill out the application form page.
- 2) Upload documents, including a signed letter of support from Department chair verifying eligibility and addressing the departmental commitment to supporting the applicant's research program.

Please contact UWCCCPreAward@uwcarbone.wisc.edu with any questions.

Application:

- 1) Proposed budget should use provided budget template. Clinical research will need to include clinical trial fees such as DOT start-up fees, IRB fees, pharmacy fees, etc and will be reviewed after submission. Please contact Jenny Dawson-Tibbits (dawsontibbit@wisc.edu) for questions concerning clinical research budget items.
- 2) Please also include indications of any funding that is currently available or a summary of funding strategies that have been considered (e.g. an NIH style Other Support document).

Required Sections:

- 1) Application form in the UWCCC Pilot Program Application website, including an indication of what program area your proposal belongs to (basic, clinical, population/QoL, disparities).
- 2) Letter of Support signed by Department Chair certifying applicant eligibility, including both the baseline eligibility criteria and provision of a supportive research environment (e.g. laboratory space, departmental resources, faculty mentoring, start-up support, etc).
- 3) Completed proposal for an ACS IRG Pilot Project
Limit Research Plan to 3 pages, Arial size 11 font, 0.5 inch margins
- 4) Proposed Budget and Justification
- 5) NIH Biographical Sketch (5-page max)
- 6) NIH Other Support document (Current, Pending)
- 7) Appendix Materials
 - a. Additional Letters of Collaboration and Support (not required)
 - i. If your proposal includes the use of resources provided by or through a collaborator, the review committee expects to see a letter of support from that collaborator.
 - b. *Resubmission Applications*: Please include an introduction summarizing your changes in response to the previous review critique.
 - c. Publications in press (if not yet available in PubMed)

Review Process and Criteria:

- 1) The Local IRG Review Committee will meet to review, discuss and prioritize submissions based on the scientific merit and applicability to current goals of the ACS.

- 2) All applications will receive a review critique. Approval decisions will be based on committee recommendations and funding availability. Funded applications will receive a signed Notice of Award from the Local IRG Committee Chair.