

**2018 American Cancer Society (ACS)
Institutional Research Grant
Early Investigator Pilot Project Funding
Request For Proposals (RFP) – 2nd Round**

Mechanism Purpose and Overview

The goal of this pilot project grant program is to provide the opportunity for early career faculty who are independent and self-directed to obtain preliminary results that will allow them to compete successfully for national research grants. Through this competition, four awards of \$50,000 are available as follows:

- Three awards will be made to junior faculty members whose research is in the areas of cancer biology, and/or the detection, treatment, and prevention of cancer, from outstanding basic, clinical, or population science proposals.
- One additional award will be dedicated to junior faculty members whose research aligns with the current special interest priorities of the ACS, which are “psychosocial and behavioral research, health policy or health services research, cancer in the poor and medically underserved, and childhood cancer.”

Pilot study proposals should focus on research that can lead to national, peer-reviewed research grants (for a list of NIH-NCI recognized “Organizations with Peer Review Funding Systems,” go to:

<http://cancercenters.cancer.gov/documents/PeerReviewFundingOrganizations508C.pdf>).

Key Dates

Posted Date: August 9, 2018

Letter of Intent: Not Applicable

Application Due Date: NOON, **October 1, 2018** (Applications received after that may not be considered)

Applicant Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are faculty members at Rutgers and Princeton University, who are within six years of their initial appointment (Assistant Professor or equivalent) that conduct cancer or cancer-related research, but do not currently have national peer-reviewed grants.
- Applicants must have the requisite time, space, and resources to successfully pursue a year-long project.
- Currently funded ACS IRG Pilot Awardees are not eligible to submit a new application but can apply for an additional one-year of funding via a competitive renewal application (contact cinjpilotprogram@cinj.rutgers.edu for further information).

Funding and Budget Information

Anticipated start date of funding is January 1, 2019. The maximum amount for each award can vary, but should not exceed \$50,000 total costs for the year. It is expected that the Grantee will completely utilize the full amount of funding during the term of the award. The term of award is 12 months. All unspent funds at the end of the grant will be returned to the Cancer Institute.

Allowable costs include:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Domestic travel when necessary to carry out proposed research program
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their roles are 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)
- Registration fees at scientific meetings

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Expenditures **not allowable** under this grant program are:

- Salary of principal investigator
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Indirect costs

Terms of Award

- During the proposal submission stage, an Endorsement Form or Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosures are not necessary. *However, before any internal award funds are dispersed, an institutional Endorsement Form and Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) disclosure will be required.*
- F&A or indirect costs are not allowable. Submission of an application indicates acceptance of this provision.
- All awards must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc.) before funds will be disbursed.
- Grantees will be **required** to submit an **interim** and **final** report describing the progress/results of their work, interactions with local ACS representatives and events as well as related publications and funding. Acceptance of funds implies a firm commitment to provide reports in a timely manner.
- Award recipients will be expected to participate in the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey, and attend local ACS events that feature this Pilot Project's grantees.
- Investigators are required to recognize the ACS grant support in publications resulting from research supported by this award. Publications should contain an acknowledgement of the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant and the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (P30CA072720).

Selection Process

Peer review of applications follows NIH procedures and scoring convention. All applications are evaluated and scored according to scientific merit and in accordance with this RFP. Primary and secondary subject-specific expert reviewers are assigned to each application and are expected to attend an in-person review group meeting. The reviewers each complete written NIH-style critique forms, provide their comments and a priority score to the entire review panel in person, and, with all members of the panel, discuss all applications scored. The final priority scores from each of the panel members are tallied and a summary of the discussion and the panel's recommendations for funding are made to the Cancer Institute's Research Leadership Council for review and to avoid overlapping funding.

General Review Criteria

One of the major goals of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey is to foster the development of cancer, cancer-related research and foster collaboration with local the American Cancer Society. Another goal is to support the development of new approaches to the study, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of cancer. Therefore, all applications will be judged based on: research significance, scientific innovation, impact of findings and a definitive plan of interaction with the local American Cancer Society.

RFP-Specific Review Criteria

Commensurate with the goals of this specific funding mechanism, the priority criteria for support are new research projects by self-directed early investigators to obtain preliminary results that will allow them to compete for national research grants at the end of the award period. The proposals will also be judged based on the following criteria:

- Scientific novelty that has not had prior R01 or equivalent peer-reviewed funding;
- Cancer or cancer-related focus in cancer biology, detection, treatment or prevention; and
- Likelihood to lead to extramural research support within the short term.

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Application and Submission Information

Application format should follow the R21 format for NIH (Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Resources and Environment), but have a shorter page limit (five pages, not including the bibliography). An additional section of this application should outline how results of the funded studies will be used for a grant application along with planned publications. A budget and budget justification is required. Please use the attached form for the application.

Sources of Funding Support

The pilot project grants awarded through this solicitation are supported by an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant award with matching funding provided by the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Email completed application and its components in a single PDF file to:

cinjpilotprogram@cinj.rutgers.edu.

If you have any questions, please email them to cinjpilotprogram@cinj.rutgers.edu.