REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant
SOAR-USC
Supporting Outstanding Academic Research in Oncology at the University of South Carolina

Background

The University of South Carolina South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP) is a recipient of the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG). The ACS IRG is an institutional award that enables USC to provide small pilot research grants to beginning investigators in cancer research who have no national competitive research grant support. **Awards will be up to $30,000 per year.**

The review of applications and allocation of awards will be managed through the SC College of Pharmacy (SCCP) at USC using a peer-review process.

Purpose of the American Cancer Society (ACS) IRG

The goal of the ACS IRG is to attract beginning investigators into cancer research. The purpose is to support the initiation of promising new cancer research projects by independent, self-directed junior faculty members so they can obtain data that will allow them to successfully compete for peer-reviewed extramural cancer research grants. SCCP collaborates with the local ACS to promote ACS research opportunities and to disseminate information about research findings and benefits to public and professional groups. To learn more about the ACS IRG and other ACS research opportunities, visit the ACS website at http://www.cancer.org.

Funding Available:

Awards are for a 12-month period, from March 1, 2016 through February 29, 2017

- **Three (3) awards of up to $30,000 each,** focusing on cancer research will be funded.
- **One (1)** *additional* **award ($30,000)** focusing on cancer research that targets poor and underserved populations will be funded.

Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants for the individual awards:

- Must be within six (6) years of their first independent research or faculty appointment. (Support of senior investigators, postdoctoral fellows or junior investigators who have received prior support from the ACS IRG are not permitted).
- Must not have any national peer-reviewed grant funding prior to IRG award (e.g., NIH R03, R01, R21, National ACS award, National DOD award etc.)
- Parties that have previously received this reward are not eligible and therefore should not apply for this grant.
- At the time of the application, interested parties must be a United States citizens, noncitizen nationals, or permanent residents of the US. Permanent residents must submit notarized evidence indicating they have a Resident Alien Card or "Green Card: (I-551) or have been approved for the issuance of such card.
- Must be a faculty member at USC.[1] Only exception: Faculty of the SCCP at MUSC campus.

Timeline for Submission and Review:

A.   **Letter of Intent:** Deadline: **N/A.**
B.   **Grant Application**: Deadline: **February 19, 2016 by 5 p.m.**
C.   **Review of Grants:** Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed in **February 2016.**

D. <u>**Notification of Outcome**</u>: *All* applicants will receive notification by **February 29, 2016.** Please notify your department's business manager if you are to be awarded a grant.

E. <u>**Grant Start Date:**</u> Every effort will be made to have awards allocated by **March 1, 2016.**

<u>**Guidelines for Submission:**</u>

A. <u>**Letter of Intent (LOI): Deadline: N/A.**</u>
**Requirement has been waived for current funding cycle.

<u>**Grant Application**</u>: **Deadline: February 19, 2016 by 5 p.m.**
Send one copy of PDF file of your application via email to: Pam Weiss (pweiss@mailbox.sc.edu).

1. **Application Format:** Use standard 12-point font such as Arial or TMS Roman, single space, and half-inch margins throughout the application. Consecutively number pages at the bottom of each page.

2. **Face Page:** Use the <u>Face Page Form</u> attached to this email.

3. **Table of Contents:** Provide the page number for each category listed in the Table of Contents. Number pages consecutively at the bottom of each page of the application.

4. **Response to Reviewers:** Allowed 2 pages for response to reviewers'. FOR RESUBMISSIONS ONLY!

5. **Detailed Budget:** Use the <u>Budget Form</u> to complete the 12-month budget form – attached here.
Note the following budget guidelines:
a. **Budget cap** is $30,000.
b. **Include direct costs only; there are NO indirect costs associated with this grant.**
c. **No faculty salaries can be included**. However, the appropriate amount of effort the PI and collaborators will contribute to this project must be indicated. Principal Investigators (PIs) must attribute *at least 5% effort* to this project, which will be a cost share through their departments. If other faculty will be providing measurable effort, their departments will be required to provide documentation of cost share. It is recommended that pre-approval of this cost share is obtained prior to submission of your application.
  Expenditures Allowed:
   -Research supplies and animal maintenance
   -Technical assistance
  -Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the 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 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)
   -Registration fees at scientific meetings

  Expenditures NOT Allowed:
-Secretarial/administrative personnel
-Salary of principal investigator
-Tuition
-Foreign travel; special consideration will be given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada
-Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
-Per Diem charges for hospital beds

-Non-medical services to patients
-Construction or building maintenance
-Major alterations
-Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
-Office and laboratory furniture
-Office equipment and supplies
-Rental of office or laboratory space
-Recruiting and relocation expenses
-Dues and membership fees in scientific societies

6. **Budget Justification:** On a <u>separate page</u>, clearly justify each item requested in the budget. Describe mentors and collaborators and their roles on the project.

7. **Biographical Sketch:** Use NIH Biosketch. Include most recent and relevant peer-reviewed publications. Include any present or recently completed research support. Include biosketches of collaborators and mentors.

8. **Facilities and Resources:** Use the <u>Facilities and Resources Form</u> attached to this email to describe resources and facilities available to support proposed research.

9. **Department Letter of Support:** Provide letter of support from Department Chair or Division Director for proposed research.

10. **Research Plan: (6 pages maximum):** The research plan should include sufficient information needed for evaluation of the project, independent of any other document. ***No appendices allowed.***

a. **Specific Aims:** List the broad, long –term objectives and what the specific research in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypotheses to be tested.

b. **Background and Significance:** Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the gaps that the project intends to fill. State concisely the importance and health relevance of the research described in the application by relating the specific aims to the broad long term objectives.

c. **Preliminary Studies:** Use this section to provide an account of the PI's preliminary studies pertinent to the application that will help establish the experience and competence of the PI to pursue the proposed project.

d. **Research Design and Methods:** Describe how you will do the research. Describe the research design and procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Point out any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precaution to be exercised.

e. **Literature Cited (NOT included in page limitations):** List all references. Each reference must include the title, name of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers and year of publication. The reference should be limited to relevant and current literature. Select only those references pertinent to the proposed project.

Review Criteria: The following review criteria will be used:
1. The proposed research has direct cancer relevance and addresses an important problem in cancer.
2. There is a high probability that the pilot project supported by an IRG award will form the basis for major peer-reviewed funding.

Review Process: Each proposal will be reviewed by two or more ACS IRG committee members and scored by each committee member using the NIH scoring system and process. Written evaluations of the projects will be provided to each applicant after the funding decisions have been made.

Requirements Prior to Receipt of Funding:
IRB and IACUC approvals must be received by SCCP Administration before any funding will be released. If approvals are not applicable, an exemption letter will be required. The institution, in which the applicant is a member, must provide research facilities or space customary for an independent investigator.

Administration: The South Carolina College of Pharmacy at USC team includes:
- Sam Kessler at 803-777-2289 (kessles@sccp.sc.edu) and/or Pam Weiss (pweiss@mailbox.sc.edu)

Please call or email us if you have any questions.