TO: UPCI Researchers, Post-doctoral Students, Junior Faculty
FROM: John M. Kirkwood, MD
Professor of Medicine, Dermatology and Translational Science
Co-Director, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program
Principal Investigator, SPORE in Melanoma & Skin Cancer
DATE: May 4, 2016
RE: Career Enhancement/Developmental Research Project Award Announcement

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT
CAREER ENHANCEMENT/DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECT AWARD IN MELANOMA & SKIN CANCER
Sponsored by:
The SPORE in Melanoma & Skin Cancer
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

The SPORE in Melanoma & Skin Cancer is accepting proposals through 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2016. Interested applicants should complete and submit all proposal materials electronically to Victoria Alisasis at alisasisva@upmc.edu.

Purpose
The overall goals of the Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE are to improve the detection and treatment of skin cancer. The SPORE includes four translational research projects in skin cancer, four cores (including an administrative core), a developmental research program, and a career enhancement program. The Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE uses an interdisciplinary approach to meet its objectives by carrying out projects with co-investigators in basic, applied, and clinical science; it is also organ-specific. All translational research projects test hypotheses about melanoma and skin cancer biology, susceptibility, detection, or treatment with a long-term goal of improving treatment outcomes for patients diagnosed with melanoma & skin cancer.

Review/Award Information
The SPORE Program has a Career Enhancement / Developmental Research Project Award in Melanoma and Skin Cancer Research available. Request for funding of approximately $35,000 will be considered for work to be undertaken from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Proposals germane to the new SPORE renewal will be prioritized.

Application Deadline
Applications should be emailed to Victoria Alisasis, Melanoma Skin Cancer SPORE Administrator, by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at alisasisva@upmc.edu.
**Career Enhancement Award**

The Career Enhancement Award Program provides funding support for salaries of Career Enhancement Awardees and/or research expenses related to the research project. Budget allocation between salary support and research expenses is at the discretion of the applicant. The program also provides guidance and mentoring during the development and performance of projects. Mentors, who are actively involved in the SPORE Projects or Cores, will advise Career Development Program faculty in melanoma translational research, grant writing and other areas of career development. Applicants should identify one or more current SPORE investigators who will sponsor the application and serve as mentor(s).

Activities of the Career Enhancement Program are expected to stimulate innovative research to meet the translational goal of the Skin Cancer SPORE: reduction in the incidence, morbidity, and mortality from melanoma and development of research towards melanoma epidemiology, immunobiology and molecular biology.

Applications will be reviewed for scientific quality, innovation, the potential for definitive results within the year; likelihood of progression to a full translational SPORE project and translational potential of the work will be a criterion of funding.

**Developmental Research Program**

The Developmental Research Program consists of available funding, blood and tissue resources, and a group of SPORE investigators to provide guidance and collaboration in the development of projects. The Core Laboratories of the Skin Cancer SPORE Program are available to investigators funded through the Developmental Research Program. The support of pilot projects is available on a competitive basis to all faculty members of UPCI.

The UPCI Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE is especially interested in funding translational research in melanoma epidemiology, prevention, molecular biology, immunobiology or systemic therapy. Priority for funding will be given to these areas of research. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in the Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE Investigators' monthly meetings and present the progress of their projects to this group during the course of the grant. Selected recipients will also be invited to attend the annual SPORE Investigators' workshop sponsored by the NCI.

**Eligibility**

UPCI faculty (Instructor level or above) at any of the academic institutions of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute are eligible to apply for funding.

**Application and Instructions**

The written application will include the following:

- cover page (attached);
- cover letter that includes a one-page statement of short-term goals and long-term career objectives;
- applicant biosketch and CV;
- identification of one to two mentors that are current Skin Cancer SPORE investigators;
- mentor/s biosketch
- a five-page research plan for the proposed translational research project;
- detailed budget;
- budget justification; and
- letter(s) of support from the proposed mentor(s)
- letter of support from the Department Chair and/or Division Chief

**Contact Information**

Scientific guidance and mentor selection: John M. Kirkwood, MD, Principal Investigator, SPORE in Melanoma and Skin Cancer. [kirkwoodjm@upmc.edu](mailto:kirkwoodjm@upmc.edu) or 412-623-7708.

Administrative questions: Victoria Alisasis, Administrator, SPORE in Melanoma and Skin Cancer [alisasisva@upmc.edu](mailto:alisasisva@upmc.edu) or 412-623-7708.
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE Career Development Program
Application Form for Research Grant Support

Principal Investigator ___________________________ Telephone # ___________________________

Rank (e.g. Assoc. Professor) ___________________________ Fax Number ___________________________

Primary Department/Division ___________________________ Email address ___________________________

Mailing Address ___________________________ Co-Investigators/Dept. Affiliation ___________________________

_________________________ ___________________________
Title of Investigation ___________________________ Location/Facility for Completion of Project ___________________________

_________________________ ___________________________
Human Subjects Yes [ ] No [ ] IRB Approval Date: ___________________________

Vertebrate Animals Yes [ ] No [ ] IACUC Approval Date: ___________________________

_________________________ ___________________________
Anticipated Start Date ___________________________ Anticipated End Date ___________________________

_________________________ ___________________________
Is Award to be utilized over one year or two years? 1yr [ ] 2yr [ ] If award is to be utilized over 2 years, indicate cost per year: ___________________________

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Total Cost for Project ___________________________

If an award is made, the awardee will abide by all guidelines established by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the University of Pittsburgh, in addition to any cooperative agreements between the University IRB and other institutions.

Signature of Principal Investigator ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Signature of Principal Investigator’s Supervisor ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Email proposals to: Victoria Alisasis, Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE Administrator (412-623-7708) alisasisva@upmc.edu

Address scientific questions to: John M. Kirkwood, M.D., Melanoma & Skin Cancer SPORE P.I. 412-623-7708/7; kirkwoodjm@upmc.edu

Checklist to be completed by applicant:

- This cover page
- All data critical to the review must be included in text of proposal
- Description of research project – max 5pp
- Translational – max 1/2p
- Detailed methodology may be appended
- Budget/detail – SF424 (R&R)
- Budgets/justification-paragraph in text
- Biosketch for each investigator (new version)

- Other Support (or “N/A”)

If clinical trial is involved:

- Copy of protocol is appended
- Copy of UPCIRB status