Ovarian Cancer SPORE Developmental Research Program

2016 Request for Applications

Background
The RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) supports four Individual Research Projects, four Cores, a Career Enhancement Program (CEP) and a Developmental Research Program (DRP).

The SPORE grant mechanism is aimed at translational research projects. The NIH definition of what constitutes translational research for SPORE applications is:

Translational cancer research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications that reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.

The goal of the DRP is to expand the pool of researchers committed to translational ovarian cancer research. Research initiatives that will be funded by the DRP are expected to have a major translational component, including those with an emphasis on etiology, diagnosis, early detection, treatment, or population science. The DRP provides a unique venue for developing cutting-edge new projects by providing significant financial support and active institutional commitment, through a program that is rapidly responsive to new ideas or initiatives. These awards are intended to provide funding for the collection of preliminary data and the development of full projects to be considered for alternate peer-reviewed funding. Funded pilot projects that have the potential to be incorporated as a component of the RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE are encouraged.

Eligibility

- Full-time Faculty Member, Associate Professor level or higher
- Full-time Faculty Member, Assistant Professor with current or past R01-type grant award
- Faculty Member at RPCI, UPCI, University of Pittsburgh, or University at Buffalo

Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply for a DRP award.

Format

Applicants are required to adhere to a modified NIH R21 format; required documents and page length are provided in the Checklist. In addition, applicants are required to include a lay abstract and a description of the translational potential. Laboratory, clinical, epidemiological, and behavior-based projects that emphasize translational ovarian cancer research are all eligible for this award. All data critical to review must be included in the proposal text. Applications that include an appendix will be administratively withdrawn.

Review Criteria

All applications will be reviewed by scientific investigators and patient advocates using a modified NIH research project review criteria and the NIH scoring system (1-9). These criteria include:

- Significance
- Approach
- Potential to produce definitive results within the proposed time frame
- Potential to advance to R01-type funding or to a SPORE Individual Research Project
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Funding
The DRP will fund two to four awards of up to $40,000 for one year, with the possibility for a one-year renewal for projects with highly promising results. Second year funding is contingent on evidence of results that warrant additional support and documented in a progress report. Successful applicants are required to submit a final progress report at the end of the funding period. Funds cannot be used for salary coverage of Principal or Co-Investigators, indirect costs, travel, publications, or equipment not specifically needed for the proposed research. Salary coverage for technicians, graduate students, or postdoctoral fellows is permitted.

Successful applicants will be required to attend and occasionally present their ongoing work at monthly RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE meetings, the RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE annual retreat, and appropriate meetings for their respective home institutions (RPCI: GYN DSRG Meeting; UPCI: Gynecological Oncology Work in Progress meetings).

Resubmissions
Previously submitted applications that did not receive a fundable score are eligible for funding consideration. Resubmissions must include a 1 page response to previous reviewer comments and indicate the application as a resubmission on the cover page.

Renewals
Previously funded DRPs are eligible for renewal. However, the program’s priority is to fund new applications. DRP recipients who are considering a renewal application are encouraged to contact Dr. Kirsten Moysich (RPCI), or Dr. Robert Edwards and Dr. Francesmary Modugno (UPCI) to discuss the likelihood of success of an additional year of funding. Renewal submissions must include a 2 page progress report and indicate the application as a renewal on the cover page.

Deadlines
Pre-proposals: Prospective applicants are required to submit a non-binding, pre-proposal due Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:00 pm. Pre-proposals should include the Scientific Abstract, Translational Potential, and Specific Aims. The pre-proposal is used for reviewer assignment. Therefore, specific aims, abstract and translational potential should not be significantly modified once submitted for the pre-proposal.

Full proposals including all documents listed below are due Monday, May 16, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Questions
For scientific questions, please contact the DRP Principal Investigator at your institution:
RPCI: Dr. Kirsten Moysich (kirsten.moysich@roswellpark.org)
UPCI: Dr. Francesmary Modugno (modugnof@upmc.edu)
Dr. Robert Edwards (edwarp@mail.magee.edu)

For administrative questions, please contact Dr. Amit Lugade (amit.lugade@roswellpark.org)
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Checklist of documents to submit for full proposal in required order:

☐ Cover Page ................................................................. (must use provided cover page)
☐ Response to Reviewers (for resubmission applications) ............... (1 page max)
☐ Progress Report (for renewal applications) ................................ (2 page max)
☐ Scientific Abstract ..................................................................... (1 page max)
☐ Lay Abstract ................................................................................ (½ page max)
☐ Translational Potential ................................................................. (½ page max)
☐ Candidate’s Biosketch .................................................................. (NIH Format)
☐ Other Support ............................................................................ (PHS 398)
☐ Biosketches for up to two co-investigators – OPTIONAL ............ (NIH Format)
☐ Budget ...................................................................................... (SF424 R&R)
☐ Budget Justification ..................................................................... (no page limit)
☐ Specific Aims ............................................................................ (1 page max)
☐ Research Plan ............................................................................ (5 page max)
☐ References Cited ......................................................................... (no page limit)
☐ If human subjects or animals are involved, include IRB/IACUC approval letter or submission date

Appendices are not permitted.

Combine all sections into one PDF document and email your submission by the deadline, Monday, May 16, 2016 5:00 pm, to Dr. Amit Lugade at amit.lugade@roswellpark.org

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Timeline for the RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE DRP

05/02/2016 Pre-proposals due (send to amit.lugade@roswellpark.org)
05/16/2016 Full proposals due (send to amit.lugade@roswellpark.org)
06/25/2016 Applicant notifications — tentative, subject to change
07/01/2016 Budget start date — tentative, subject to change