



Winship Invest\$: **Request for Catalyst Fund Proposals 2022**

Through a generous philanthropic gift, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University is pleased to launch the Winship Catalyst Fund with the specific purpose of pre-clinical development of novel treatment approaches for cancer therapy, diagnostics, or prevention. To support Winship's mission of moving discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic, this funding opportunity invites applications from Winship members who propose research projects that meet the overall goals of the Catalyst Fund initiative; the novel approach should be based on a scientific discovery made by the applicant and poised for rapid pre-clinical work with the ultimate objective of seeking an Investigational New Drug (IND) application from the FDA. The estimated timeline for this project is 2-3 years. Proposed projects can be across the translational cancer research spectrum, including pre-clinical studies in the therapeutic, diagnostic, and prevention disciplines; however, projects that are early in the discovery/exploratory phase of target discovery, target validation, or drug screening would not be considered for this award. Collaborative research will be viewed as a strength with a clear path from the laboratory to the clinic.

Proposals with a budget of up to \$250,000 for year one may be considered subject to meeting milestones. Project(s) selected for funding will have an option of up to \$1,000,000 in total funding if the project makes the necessary progress to launch a future clinical trial or seek an IND.

Successful applicants will be expected to appropriately reference Winship and the Winship Catalyst Fund in all acknowledgements as well as provide progress and final reports upon request.

Winship Invest\$ Catalyst Fund – Eligibility Criteria and Application Requirements:

1. *Winship Invest\$* invites proposals from active Winship members. To maintain active membership status, the following criteria must be met:
 - a. Attendance of at least 50% of published meetings of the member's assigned research program.
 - b. Maintenance of a good financial standing with Winship.
 - c. Acknowledgement of the Winship Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) on all publications resulting from services provided by one or more Winship shared resources.
 - d. Acknowledgement of the appropriate pilot funding source on all publications resulting from work supported by the *Winship Invest\$* program.
2. Winship members can receive only one pilot project award in a given year and may not submit more than one proposal through any *Winship Invest\$* RFP. Please address any questions regarding eligibility to winshipgrants@emory.edu.
3. Salary support for the principal investigator is not allowed except for junior faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor and below.
4. All proposals must include delineated milestones and steps necessary to achieve those milestones. Furthermore, a clear plan for translating findings towards the design and implementation of a clinical trial or an IND should be included.
5. Data Management – Proposals must include a plan to maintain research data in REDCap or other secure data management system (if relevant) with quality control and stored on the Emory system with back-up and potential for data sharing. Consultation for data sharing plans with the Winship Data and Technology Applications (DATA) Shared Resource are recommended. (<https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/shared-resources/winship-data-and-technology-applications.html>)

6. Community Outreach and Engagement Statement – Applications must include a community outreach and engagement statement justifying how the proposed research will address and help reduce the cancer burden in Winship’s catchment area (state of Georgia), or state how proposals will disseminate evidence-based interventions to communities in Georgia or beyond. Questions about catchment area-relevant research can be directed to Theresa W. Gillespie, PhD, Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement (COE), tgilles@emory.edu.
7. Clinical Research – Clinical research proposals can only be submitted by MDs, MD/PhDs, or RN/PhDs. All clinical research awardees are expected to follow clinical research guidelines set by Emory IRB, Winship Clinical Trials SOPs and the Winship Clinical and Translational Research Committee and must satisfy clinical research training requirements. Proposals must include the following:
 - a. A Human Subjects Research document
 - b. Winship CTRC Application
 - c. Clinical Protocol and Informed Consent Form
 - d. A plan to maintain clinical research data in OnCore or through the support of the Winship DATA Shared Resource
8. Proposals which include *in vivo* studies must include a:
 - a. Section addressing *vertebrate animals* research
 - b. IACUC protocol (draft to be submitted or IACUC-approved protocol)
9. Members receiving funding are expected to submit progress reports to the Winship Executive Committee. Specific instructions on due dates of reports are provided at the time of funding.

Winship Invest\$ Catalyst Fund – Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals are evaluated based on the probability of future technical and commercial success and the following criteria:

- Validity of unmet clinical need
- Competitive landscape
- Current and future market dynamics
- Strength and nature of intellectual property
- Addressability of regulatory risk
- Understanding of potential reimbursement hurdles
- Feasibility of proposed budget
- High probability clinical use or follow-on funding within 2-3 years of receiving an award

Winship Invest\$ Catalyst Fund – Meetings, Reporting, and Operating Reviews

Selected applicant(s) will participate in a pre-defined meeting schedule with an expert panel that will make recommendations regarding continuation of funding based on the progress. Meeting schedules will be defined during the pre-award phase of a project and mapped to key milestones for the project. These sessions are not reporting meetings but working meetings to advance both scientific and pre-commercial efforts. Selected applicant(s) are also required to present semi-annual operating reviews to the Winship Executive Committee. These reviews will consist of an oral presentation, and PIs are required to participate in-person.

Winship Invest\$ Catalyst Fund – Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent should be submitted that identifies the PI, all potential co-investigators and/or collaborators on the project, the research program of the applicant, the research domain for which the project is to be considered, a proposed title and a brief description of the proposed research project. Letters of Intent should be no longer than two pages. Letters of Intent should be uploaded as a single document to <https://intranet.winship.emory.edu/pilotgrant> no later than **5 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022**. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to winshipgrants@emory.edu.

Component Deadlines:

RFP Announcement:
 Letter of Intent:
 Application Receipt Date:
 Anticipated Start Date:

Date:

02/16/2022
 02/28/2022
 03/28/2022
 06/01/2022