V Foundation Translational Cancer Research Program

Early Detection of Cancer

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

Winship Cancer Institute is pleased to announce a funding opportunity provided by the V Foundation’s 2022 Call for Translational Cancer Research grant proposals. This call for applications is specifically for adult cancer research, with the nominee to be selected by Winship Cancer Institute.

PURPOSE OF AWARD: The V Foundation seeks to support translational research projects within the scope of adult cancer research, specifically in the focus area of early detection of cancer. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many routine cancer screenings were missed, especially routine screenings for breast, cervical, colorectal, prostate and lung cancer. These failed screenings resulted in much later detection of these and other cancers, increasing the death rate. Researchers estimate that 25% fewer cancers were detected due to these missed screenings. Better early detection methods are needed for all cancer types. Some examples of early detection research areas include better liquid biopsy detection methods, better imaging techniques, better at-home assays and identification of better early warning cancer signals. We welcome new areas of research and innovative ideas in the early detection area outside of those listed here. Even after the pandemic recedes, there are likely to be persistent health disparities related to screening failures associated with socioeconomic factors. Some cancers, like colon cancer, have worse outcomes in minorities due in part to late diagnosis. We encourage cross disciplinary research, including expertise from other disciplines (for example: bioinformatics, computational scientists, or engineers) as applicable to the research. Translational projects should move a novel strategy from the bench to clinical application. The research should apply in some direct way to human beings within the time frame of less than 3 years. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set or independent clinical trial is essential. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal.

SPECIAL FOCUS AREA: This request for applications is specifically for adult cancer research in the focus area of early detection. While not required, we also encourage research on the biological basis of cancer disparities experienced by patients from minority ethnic or racial populations in areas related to causes, aggressiveness, detection, treatment or relapse. Research within the biological basis of cancer disparities will be eligible for funding through the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund. Cancers in which ethnic and racial
disparities have previously been demonstrated include: lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, breast, prostate, uterine, cervix, stomach, and liver. Applicants submitting research proposals on the biological basis of disparities will need to describe how their research is applicable to the scope of the RFA, even if in one of the above cancers.

**GRANT SPECIFICS:** The total amount of this grant is $600,000, paid in three annual installments of $200,000. Indirect costs up to 10% are permitted (i.e., over the grant term, a maximum of $60,000 can be utilized for indirect costs leaving $540,000 for direct costs).

**APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:**
- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g. 501c3, Section 170).
- Either a US Citizen or have a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US.
- Hold a tenure-track or tenured faculty position at their cancer research institution. Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination to lead the Translational Research Team.

**INTERNAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES:** Letters of Intent (not to exceed 2 pages) are due Monday, February 18, 2022 via email to winshipgrants@emory.edu. Letters of Intent should also include the PI’s NIH Biosketch, a proposed title for the research project, and a brief 1-2 page abstract of the proposed research project. The selected investigator will be notified and invited to submit a full application by Winship. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to Dana Ray (404-372-3752 or via e-mail at dmray@emory.edu).

**2022 TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM – EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER**

**CYCLE COMPONENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of RFP Announcement:</th>
<th>Thursday, January 26, 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winship Letter of Intent Due Date:</td>
<td>Friday, February 18, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winship Announcement of Nominee Selection:</td>
<td>Friday, February 25, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nomination Due Date (to V Foundation):</td>
<td>Monday, February 28, 2022</td>
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<td>V Foundation Application Due Date:</td>
<td>Thursday, March 24, 2022 by 5:00 pm EST</td>
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