SPORE IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER
CAREER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Request for Research Proposals
Deadline: April 6th, 2018

The SPORE in Head and Neck Cancer is soliciting new proposals for its Career Enhancement Program (CEP). A unique aspect of the SPORE Program is its ability to promote ongoing innovation and new ideas in translational research in head and neck cancer. The SPORE CEP is designed to provide training and guidance for academic physician-scientists, clinician-investigators, and laboratory-based scientists who wish to dedicate their efforts to translational research in the areas of diagnosis, imaging, prevention, treatment and improvement in quality of life in head and neck cancer. The aims of this program are to provide an environment that enables talented young investigators to engage in meaningful research leading to more effective means of diagnosis, prevention and treatment of head and neck cancer.

Translational research in SPOREs is based upon human biology stemming from any cellular, molecular, structural, biochemical, genetic, or other appropriate experimental approach. Translational research involves the use of knowledge of human biology to develop and test the feasibility of cancer-relevant interventions in humans and/or to determine the biological basis for observations made in individuals with cancer or in populations at risk for cancer. Interventions is used in its broadest sense to include molecular assays, imaging techniques, drugs, biologicals, and/or other methodologies applicable to the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of cancer.

By developing a strong mentorship program in the CEP, awardees will be instructed on the principles of basic, clinical, translational, and epidemiological aspects of head and neck cancer. Combining this with a solid grounding in technological expertise, a cadre of talented young investigators will increase their career focus on head and neck cancer biology, screening, prevention and treatment.

This RFP is designed to solicit proposals from eligible candidates (criteria listed below), and will fund up to two CEP candidates for one year, with a maximum of $50,000 in direct funds. Proposals relevant to head and neck oncology with high translational significance and innovation are requested, and will be reviewed by the SPORE’s CEP Review Committee prior to any funding decisions. Awardees are expected to provide semi-annual reports on the progress of their project, and a final report at the end of their project period. Awardees are granted full-project status within the SPORE and benefit from access to Administration, Pathology, and Biostatistics core resources and opportunities for collaboration that arise from membership in the SPORE.

Applications are welcomed from candidates at Emory University and other institutions in the metro Atlanta area, and from women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities.
CEP candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Completion of an Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, Plastic Surgery, or General Surgery residency, OR a Medical Oncology or Radiation Oncology Fellowship with board certification or eligibility, OR a PhD program in a basic science discipline with postdoctoral training and relevant oncology research experience. Established investigators with experience in cancer research outside of the head and neck area will be considered if they are committed to developing a research program in head and neck oncology.
- Commitment to a career focused on translational research in head and neck cancer.
- Interest in research concentrating on the wide variety of head and neck cancer with a commitment to complete two years of translational research. One-year training will be considered in unique situations for individuals with considerable research background who wish to redirect or extend an ongoing research program into head and neck cancer research.
- Excellent interpersonal relationships supported by letters of recommendation and verified through in-person interview.

Additional qualifications for the following categories:

Advanced Postdoctoral and Junior Faculty
- Evidence of high quality peer reviewed publications in head and neck cancer or translational research;
- Potential for independent, peer-reviewed funding.

Senior Faculty (at least one of the following):
- A consistent track record of either high quality peer reviewed funding and high impact publications; or
- A demonstrated interest in focusing their research in the area of head and neck cancer; or
- Evidence of stellar clinical care of head and neck cancer patients with an emerging translational research focus.

Additional requirements
- All applicants must submit their research proposal using forms provided by this RFP.
- Investigators must be able to start their research project or clinical study once the award has been issued.
- Award funds must be used within the project period. Carryover of funds is not automatic.

Each application must specify at least one mentor from the SPORE Career Enhancement Program Mentor Committee (listed below). Selection of an additional alternative mentor outside Winship or from a different department is encouraged and the applicant should include an explanation of the relationship of the mentor and their expertise. Applicants from institutions outside Emory will be required to select one mentor from the CEP faculty and one mentor from their home institution.

- Dong Moon Shin
- Nabil F Saba
- Johnathan Beitler
- Deborah Bruner
- Amy Chen
- Jing Chen
- Zhuo Georgia Chen
- Jin-Tang Dong
- Periasamy Selvaraj
- Christopher Flowers
- Sumin Kang
- Mark El-Deiry
- Arturo Solares
- Taofeek Owonikoko
- Rebecca Pentz
- Rafi Ahmed
- Gregory Lesinski

Emory Winship Cancer Institute
1365C Clifton Road
Atlanta Georgia 30322
The Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center
An equal opportunity, affirmative action university
How to submit a Career Enhancement Program Research Project Application:
An electronic Application can be requested by contacting, the SPORE Administrator, Nefertiti Hawthorne, nhawth2@emory.edu. The completed application package must be in PDF format and be submitted electronically to Nefertiti Hawthorne, nhawth2@emory.edu by April 6, 2018, 5:00PM. Emory applicants should not route this proposal through OSP or enter it into EPEX.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents listed below. Application packages can be sent electronically to applicants by contacting the SPORE Administrator. Please use Arial font size 11 point throughout the proposal package.

- Cover letter - A statement of how this research project meets the definition of translational research should also be included
- Candidate contact information
- Signatures
- Instruction check list
- Abstract (500 words)
- NIH biosketch for the candidate – 5-page limit.
- Career development description limited to three pages. Information should be organized under the headings of: Candidate’s Training and Experience, Career Goals and Objectives, Career Training Plan, Selection of Mentor(s), and Evaluation of Candidate’s Progress.
- Project narrative (description of proposed mentored research plan) limited to three pages. Information should be organized under the headings of: Specific Aims; Background and Significance; Preliminary Studies (or Preliminary Data if available); Research Design and Methods; Data Management; Timeline; and Literature Cited (not included in the 3-page limit). The 3-page limit includes all tables and figures.
- Detailed budget for one year ($50,000 in total direct costs). It is recommended that the level of effort for the career development project leader be at least 5% (0.60 calendar months).
- Budget justification, justifying each person (including the applicant) that funding is requested for, in addition to all other items being requested.
- Letter of recommendation from applicant’s department chairperson
- Letters of recommendation from mentor(s)
- Appendix - A maximum of three items may be submitted in an appendix as support material.

Additional Information:

**Budget expenditures allowed include:**
- Salary for the principal investigator
- Equipment purchase or rental (less than $3,000)
- Research supplies
- Animal purchase and maintenance costs
- Technical assistance
- Domestic travel to attend scientific conferences relating to the proposed research
- Registration fees at relevant meetings
- Special fees (computer time, pathology, photography, etc.)

**Expenditures not allowed include:**
- Salary for secretarial/administrative personnel
- Office supplies or office equipment
- Computers, postage fees and shipping charges
- Office or laboratory furniture
- Foreign travel
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals
- Dues and membership fees
- Recruiting and relocating expenses
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Per diem charges for hospital beds
- Non-medical books or personal services to patients