

Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE) FY25 Collaborative Cancer Research Seed Grant

The “*Collaborative Institutions Seed Grant Program for Cancer Research*” through Georgia CORE is a research funding mechanism that provides seed funding for a cancer research project that involves two or more institutions or organizations in the state of Georgia comprised of a lead and a collaborative research entity. For the FY25 grant cycle, all grants related to impacting cancer morbidity or mortality rates in Georgia will be accepted. A focus on disparities work is encouraged; however, not required. This grant program is funded through the Georgia Cancer Research Fund which receives funds through taxpayer donations designated on their annual Georgia income tax return.

The Goals of the Program are to:

- Connect two or more unique institutions or organizations in the state of Georgia to work collaboratively on a cancer research project over a one-year time frame.
- Provide seed funding for basic and translational scientists, epidemiologists, and clinicians whose research is related to decreasing cancer morbidity or mortality rates in Georgia.
- Fund research in the following areas: treatment/therapy, patient care, early diagnosis, prevention, detection, cancer biology, cancer disparities, or epidemiology.
- Obtain preliminary data for potential additional funding from other entities or agencies.

Request for Proposals:

- Release Date: November 20, 2023
- Letter of Intent Due (**REQUIRED**) December 20, 2023
- Proposals Due: February 28, 2024
- Notice of Award Date: May 1, 2024
- Grant Award: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

Eligibility

Lead Principal Investigator (PI):

- MD or PhD degree
- Investigators must be from an accredited college, university, medical school, or community cancer center within the state of Georgia
- All levels of academic faculty (assistant, associate and full professors)
- Research scientists and research associates with recommendations from their academic faculty supervisor(s)
- Postdoctoral fellows and young investigators after two years of completed training from any academic or private institution of the United States
- Established publication track record and previous funding are desirable but not required for consideration

Lead PI Organization:

- Accredited college, university, medical school, or community cancer center within the state of Georgia interested in collaborating

Collaborative Principal Investigator (PI):

- A terminal degree in the field of science or medicine

Collaborative PI Organization:

- Organization interested in cancer research within the state of Georgia and willing to collaborate with the Lead PI institution.

Deliverables

- Expectation that the seed grant awards will generate quality abstracts, papers, presentations as well as new proposals and contribute to the science of improving cancer mortality rates in Georgia.
- Two-page final report due at the conclusion of the seed grant award period detailing: 1) outcomes of the seed grant award; 2) abstracts, papers, presentations and/or new proposals generated as a result of the seed grant.

Funding amount, Timetable, Review process and Schedule of Awards:

- Funding is provided for a one-year cancer research project in the amount of \$100,000.
- Application opens November 20, 2023, and submission deadline is February 28, 2024.
- Please submit a one-page Letter of Intent that includes both the lead and collaborative PIs and the title of the research project with a brief description of the project by December 20, 2023, to Sheryl Gabram MD, Chief Scientific Officer, Georgia CORE (sgabram@georgiacore.org). Submission of the LOI does not commit the PIs to final submission. The LOI will be used for planning purposes of the review process and is required for grant submission in February 2024.
- Preference is given to new research collaborations between two institutions; however, existing relationships with new projects are encouraged to apply.
- A scientific review committee of researchers, physician investigators with representation from the Georgia CORE Board, and a cancer survivor will be convened to review and score all applications.
- The award announcement will be made on May 1, 2024, for funding start date July 1, 2024.
- Each applicant is required to submit a 3-page summary progress report by the end of the funding cycle (June 30, 2025).
- Progress reports should include abstracts, papers, presentations, and grant proposals (in preparation, completed or already submitted to other funding agencies) as a result of the seed grant from this program.

Proposal format:

- Each proposal must include Specific Aims; Significance to Cancer Research; and Research Plan.
- Preliminary data, if available, are optional.
- Proposals must be written in English and include both a public information abstract and a scientific abstract, not to exceed 250 words each.
- Obtaining IRB approval in a timely fashion is the responsibility of the applicant.

Budget Guidelines:

- Maximum Award request is \$100,000 (including indirect costs). All budget items must directly support the research and dissemination activities in the proposal and must be justified in relation to the scope of work.
- Funds may be allowed to support graduate students and postdoctoral scholars working on the project, provide salary support for technical assistance, and purchase supplies, services, and equipment related specifically to the project and not otherwise available through the lead or collaborative institutions. Funds may also be used for community-based education activities related to the scope of the research, and/or to increase community awareness about the causes and prevention of cancer. Travel expenses are allowed only for data collection directly related to the proposed research. Equipment purchases and expenses for equipment maintenance and service contracts, personal computers (including computer hardware and/or software) and/or consultants require sufficient justification as to their specific need for the proposed research and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A budget itemization and narrative justification is required in the full proposal. NIH Salary cap applies to personnel exceeding this rate in the budget.
- Non-allowable costs: funds may not be used for clerical assistance, patient care costs, office supplies, books, periodical subscriptions, patent execution costs, membership fees, registration fees, fundraising costs, meeting, or conference travel.
- Indirect cost recovery maximum is 10%.

Institutional Information

Title:

Lead Principal Investigator:

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Lead Institution Name:

Mailing Address

Street 1:

Street 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Lead Institution Point of Contact:

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Collaborative Principal Investigator:

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Collaborative Institution Name:

Mailing Address

Street 1:

Street 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Collaborative Institution Point of Contact

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Please note that if any of principal investigators or staff change, Georgia CORE must be notified of the new contact as soon as possible.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

1. Narrative Summary (or Technical Proposal)

- **Title:** Provide a short, descriptive title for the program.
- **Abstract (s) 250-word limit each**
Provide two brief descriptions of the research project: in scientific and lay language. (*Each 250 words*)
- **Will funding support a new or existing research project?** New _____ Existing _____
- **Total Dollar Amount Requested:** _____
Indicate the total dollar amount of funding requested for this program
- **Proposed Research Activities:** Prepare in 12-point font, with one-inch margins on numbered pages in a maximum of 10 pages single-spaced, not including abstract and literature cited. Use the following format:
 - **Specific Aims**
 - **Significance of Cancer Research**
 - **Preliminary Data (if applicable)**
 - **Experimental Design and Methods**
 - **Plan for Publication or Dissemination.**May include up to 2 additional pages (not included in the 10-page limit) for literature cited.
- **Cancer Relevance and Impact (1 page maximum, exclusive of the 10-page limit):** Georgia Cancer Research Fund resources are intended to support research clearly and directly related to cancer and are not intended to support general biological or other health research.

2. Business Proposal

- **Itemized Budget and Justification:** Provide an itemized budget with narrative for the proposed activities in accordance with the allowable costs and budget guidelines.
- **Other Support:** On a separate page, identify all current and pending grants that provide direct financial support to the PI's laboratory or research group. The list should include all research grants, program project grants (details and funds for the PI's sub-project only) and other pertinent sources of funds that support the applicant's research for the award calendar year. Include direct costs only. This does not include start-up funds, salary-only grants and fellowships for the PI, or training grants for graduate students that do not supply research support for the PI's laboratory or research group. For each grant, include the title, and describe any scientific relationship that exists between that grant and the proposed Georgia Cancer Research Fund project and, specifically, how they differ.
- **Additional Attachments:**
 - PI bio-sketches for lead and collaborative partners, not to exceed four pages each (use NIH format).
 - Research compliance: Indicate anticipated IRB or IACUC approval timeline and if applicable, provide a summary of any human subjects or animal use issues.
 - Letters of collaboration may be included from individuals who will be participating in the project in a significant way on an ongoing basis (*optional*). Letters may not exceed one page each. Do not submit any letters from individuals not directly participating in the research.

Proposed Review and Scoring Criteria

- The scientific review committee will evaluate proposals based on scoring criteria and program priorities listed below; however, an emphasis will be focused on potential success for future extramural funding.
- Proposals receive a combined score based on merit and impact on cancer morbidity or mortality rates in Georgia. Scoring is based on specific consideration of the following:
 1. Significance of Problems to be Solved: Proposed research should address compelling questions related to cancer research or proposed cutting-edge directions that are likely to lead to important scientific or scholarly breakthroughs relevant to any aspect of cancer.
 2. Proposed Methods: Methods proposed are appropriate and feasible for the questions to be solved. Emphasis will be made on collecting data to be used for future extramural grant submissions.
 3. Probability of Success: Proposed research project can be accomplished within the one-year time frame of the award, and the research team is well-qualified to undertake the project.

In making funding recommendations, reviewers also consider appropriateness of requested budget for the proposed activity.

Lead PI: _____

Date: _____

Collaborative PI: _____

Date: _____

By typing my name above, I verify that all information submitted is accurate as of the date specified.

Submission Process

Complete application with required attachments must be **electronically submitted as both Word and PDF documents** to sgabram@georgiacore.org **no later than 5 pm EST on February 28, 2024.**

If you have any questions regarding the application or submission process, please contact Georgia CORE:

Sheryl G.A. Gabram-Mendola MD MBA

Chief Scientific Officer

sgabram@georgiacore.org

Office: 404-523-8735

Cell: 404-803-8554