Winship Cancer Institute is releasing the Winter 2020 Request for Pilot Grant Proposals for its Winship Invest$ program. Winship Invest$ is a peer-reviewed program providing pilot funding for novel, innovative cancer research projects. This program enables Winship investigators to obtain preliminary data and results for publication and for subsequent peer-reviewed funding applications. Winship Invest$ has two funding opportunities every year. Successful applications are supported by philanthropic contributions to Winship and by developmental funds from the Winship’s NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

Proposals with a budget of up to $50,000 for one year may be considered for Winship Invest$ (unless otherwise stated for specific research domains). Successful applicants will be expected to appropriately reference Winship in all acknowledgements as well as provide progress and final reports upon request.

Investigators may submit only one proposal to the Winship Invest$ Request for Pilot Grant Proposals (RFP) per funding cycle. The current Winship Invest$ RFP seeks applications in the following research domains:

Winship Invest$ Research Domains:

1. **Team Science-Based Research** – Will support collaborative efforts that leverage the strengths and expertise of two or more PIs from at least two Winship research programs. Proposals will be considered for budgets up to $100K for one year with the potential of renewal upon successful completion of the first year. Proposals must submit one integrated budget and have at least two PIs who contribute substantially to the proposal and its execution.

2. **Cancer Disease Type-Specific Research** – The following opportunities will focus on one specific cancer disease category. For each category budgets of up to $50,000 for one year will be considered. Awards under this opportunity are limited to this RFP cycle only and include:

   a. **Breast Cancer Disease Type-Specific Research** – Thanks to the generous donations from the Glenn Family, we are pleased to solicit proposals for breast cancer specific research. Awards under this opportunity are limited to this RFP cycle only. This opportunity aims to support:

   - Clinical therapeutic or non-therapeutic studies which prospectively enroll patients that leverage the strengths and expertise of multiple PIs across at least two Winship research programs. Proposals must submit one integrated budget and have at least two PIs who contribute substantially to the progress of the project. Research should focus (but not limited to) any of the following:
     - Health disparities and the relationship with breast cancer outcomes and/or health literacy
     - Ductal carcinoma in situ
     - Neoadjuvant treatment trials
     - Metastatic breast cancer
     - Side effects of breast cancer and/or quality of life in survivors
     - Immunotherapy
     - Inflammation

   b. **Gastrointestinal Cancer-Specific Research Projects** – Research projects that focus on basic or translational research, investigator-initiated clinical trials, health disparities, survivorship, immunotherapy, or quality of life projects related to gastrointestinal cancers.
c. **Melanoma Cancer Disease Type-Specific Research** – Research projects that focus on basic or translational research, investigator-initiated clinical trials, health disparities, imaging, survivorship, immunotherapy, or quality of life projects related to melanoma. Proposals aimed at investigating new ideas, as well as proposals that have been reviewed nationally (NIH, DOD) and are within 10% of the payline will be considered favorably. For the latter, please include the prior review and how the proposed experiments will address a gap in preliminary data that will make a resubmission more competitive.

d. **Prostate Cancer Disease Type-Specific Research** – Research projects that focus on basic or translational research, investigator-initiated clinical trials, health disparities, imaging, survivorship, or quality of life projects related to prostate cancer (this funding opportunity has been previously announced – refer to prostate specific RFP for details).

3. **Cancer Immunology (CI) Program New Intra-programmatic Activities** – Research projects that stimulate NEW intra-programmatic team science activities. Must have 2 or more CI Program members, each of whom has a substantial intellectual contribution to the project and who have not previously worked together (e.g. no collaborative grants/published papers). CI Program emphases include cellular responses to genomic insults, cancer epigenetics, and cancer genomics. *Cross theme interactions are highly encouraged.*

4. **Community Outreach and Engagement** – Research projects that focus on impacting the unique cancer needs within the Winship catchment area (Georgia). Project may focus on research of high incidence tumors in our state, health disparities, prevention and cancer control efforts, assessment of community needs, and implementation/dissemination of evidence-based interventions. Projects should aim to provide a direct positive impact for citizens within the state of Georgia.

5. **Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials** – Will support novel new investigator-initiated Winship clinical trials. Trials should be designed in order to meet a specific need of the Winship patient population and be ready for submission through the regulatory process at the time of application

6. **General Category** - Any research project as proposed by a Winship member whose topic is not covered by a one of the other RFP categories. Project should focus on novel research ideas that will lead to external peer-reviewed funding. Project may include research related to clinical care process improvements.

**Winship Invest$ Eligibility Criteria and Application Requirements:**

1. Pilot projects will be awarded to active Winship members. To maintain active membership status, the following criteria must be met:
   a. Attendance of at least 50% to published meetings of the research program to which he/she belongs;
   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 in 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 RFP.

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 a clear plan for subsequent extramural grant submissions as a result of the work proposed.

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 Research Informatics Shared Resource are recommended. (https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/shared-resources/winship-research-informatics.html)
6. **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 Informatics Shared Resource

7. 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)

8. 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.

9. Letter of Intent: The Letter of Intent should identify 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](https://intranet.winship.emory.edu/pilotgrant) no later than 5:00pm on Monday, February 17, 2020. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to Jeff Mills (404-727-3634 or via e-mail at jeff.mills@emory.edu).

**Cycle 8 Components:**

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<td>Letter of Intent</td>
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