

# *Winship Invest\$:* Request for Pilot Grant Proposals Summer 2021

Winship Cancer Institute is releasing the Summer 2021 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. **Early Career Investigator Research Projects** – Applicants should be at the Instructor/Assistant Professor (or equivalent) with faculty appointments of six years or less who are eligible to apply for independent national competitive (peer-reviewed) research grants, but who currently do not hold such funding. Research projects should focus on clinical, basic or translational cancer-related research that offer significant potential for reducing the incident, mortality, and morbidity of cancer and/or improving the quality of life.
3. **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:
    - Therapeutic or non-therapeutic clinical studies which prospectively enroll patients or utilize samples collected from patients with breast cancer. Submitted projects that leverage the strengths and expertise of investigators from across two or more Winship research programs will be prioritized. Proposals must submit one integrated budget. Future directions from the proposed study should be described. Research should focus (but not limited to) any of the following:
      - Ductal carcinoma in situ
      - (Neo)adjuvant studies, including pre-surgical trials or those focusing on the issue of late recurrence
      - Metastatic breast cancer
      - Targeted therapy and/or immunotherapy
      - Side effects of breast cancer therapy
      - Quality of life in survivors
      - Health disparities and the relationship with breast cancer outcomes and/or health literacy. Potential studies include health implementation or understanding racial and/or ethnic differences in tumor- and/or blood-based markers

4. **Cancer Immunology (CI) Program** – The CI Program will be considering applications with the following emphasis:  
***Intra-programmatic Activities*** – Research projects that stimulate intra-programmatic team science activities. Must have two or more CI Program members, each of whom has a substantial intellectual contribution to the project. CI Program emphases include cellular responses to genomic insults, cancer epigenetics, and cancer genomics. *Cross theme interactions are highly encouraged in addition to projects with direct relevance to the Winship catchment area.*
5. **Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC) Program** – The CPC Program will be considering inter-programmatic proposals (representing one member of the CPC Program and a member of any one of the other Winship Research Programs) with the following emphasis:
  - a. ***Cancer Epidemiology***, which aims to identify risk factors, including individual biological and behavioral factors, community and policy factors, and environmental exposures in an effort to inform targeted interventions and strategies to reduce cancer risk in Georgia.
  - b. ***Interventions***, which focuses on chemoprevention trials, individual behavioral interventions, and policy and systems-level changes with the ultimate goal of broad-scale implementation of effective strategies. Preference will be given to the collaborations with the CMB program members.
  - c. ***Cancer Survivorship***, which focuses on treatment-related early effects, including patient-reported outcomes, biobehavioral changes in the brain, and late effects such as cardiovascular diseases, all of which substantially affect the quality-of-life of cancer survivors;
  - d. ***Quality of Cancer Care***, which aims to conduct population-based research that describes, interprets, and predicts the impact of health care interventions and other factors on quality of cancer care and outcomes.

From amongst the most competitive proposals in these topic areas, preference will be given to those that: (a) have the best potential to provide preliminary data supporting external grant submissions; (b) establish new inter-programmatic or intra-programmatic collaborations; (c) make use of Winship shared resources; (d) make use of the Georgia Cancer Registry as a resource to understand cancer prevention and control priorities in the state; of (e) include research focus with a direct impact on the Winship catchment area.

6. **Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) Program** – The CMB Program will be considering applications with the following emphasis:
  - a. Research projects that are intended to stimulate new intra-programmatic collaborations, and preference will also be given to the collaborations with the CPC program members. Each application must have two or more co-PIs. Since the funding is intended to stimulate new interactions, the co-PIs cannot have a record of prior joint funding or publications within the last three years.
  - b. Research with a direct impact on catchment relevant priorities.
7. **Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics (DDT) Program** – The DDT Program will be considering applications with the following emphasis:
  - a. The newest thematic area for cancer treatment delivery technology.
  - b. Research with a direct impact on catchment relevant priorities.
8. **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 may 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. Community Outreach and Engagement Statement – Applications must include a community outreach and engagement statement justifying how 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. Investigators should highlight how their research aligns with catchment area priorities when appropriate. 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](mailto:tgilles@emory.edu)
7. 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
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.
10. 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> **no later than 5:00pm on Friday, August 13, 2021**. 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](mailto:jeff.mills@emory.edu)).

**Cycle 10 Components:**

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

**Date:**

07/26/2021  
08/13/2021  
09/24/2021  
11/01/2021