Winship Cancer Institute is pleased to announce the second round of funding opportunities in the Winship Invest$ program. Winship Invest$ is a peer-reviewed program designed to provide pilot funding for novel, innovative cancer research projects. This program will support pilot projects and enable Winship investigators to obtain preliminary data and results for publication and for peer-reviewed funding applications. Winship Invest$ will have two funding opportunities for applications every year. Funded applications will be supported by philanthropic contributions to Winship and by developmental funds in Winship’s 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 per Winship Invest$ Request for Pilot Grant Proposals (RFP) cycle and identify within which research domain they seek consideration. For the next funding cycle, Winship Invest$ will strategically align funding opportunities with the strategic initiatives of the National Cancer Moonshot program (https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/01/fact-sheet-investing-national-cancer-moonshot). The current Winship Invest$ RFP seeks applications in the following areas:

Winship Invest$ Research Domains:
1. **Prevention and Early Detection:** Aims to support research into the development of cancer chemoprevention agents, biomarkers for early cancer detection, cancer-related nutrition science, development, evaluation, and optimization of safe cancer vaccines and/or clinical prevention studies.
2. **Cancer Immunotherapy and Combination Therapy:** Aims to support projects that will extend the early successes of immunotherapy for cancer treatment to other solid tumors by supporting basic research to increase understanding of how the immune system can be used to modify cancer cells and their activities. In addition, the initiative aims to support the development of and testing of new combination therapies, either in the basic, translational or clinical setting. Special consideration will be given to any project that seeks to address health disparity gaps in under-represented populations.
3. **Genomic Analysis of Tumor:** Aims to support research that leads to a greater understanding of the genetic changes that occur within the cancer cell, and in surrounding and immune cells responding to the cancer, will advance both immunotherapy and targeted drug therapy and help lead to an increased ability to enhance patient response to therapy.

- **NOTE:** Special consideration will be given during the review process in all of the above categories for research projects that seek to address research in under-represented populations and health disparity in cancer prevention, screening, and treatment.
- **NOTE:** Special consideration will be given during the review process in all of the above categories for research projects that seek to address research in the pediatric cancer population.

4. **Melanoma Research:** Aims to support projects that focus on the development of novel treatment approaches, improved understanding of the disease biology, biomarker discovery and/or drug discovery efforts. Investigations may be lab-based or clinical but should have a translational focus. Team-based scientific approaches are encouraged. Proposals will be considered in each of the below categories:
   a. General melanoma research in either basic, clinical, prevention and/or early detection projects
   b. Brain metastases and/or metastatic disease in general.
This opportunity is supported through the Melanoma Innovation Fund provided by the philanthropic contribution of an anonymous donor specifically interested in improving treatment options for patients with melanoma. For this opportunity, proposals will be considered with budgets between $50,000 and $100,000 for up to two-years.

**Winship Invest$ Eligibility Criteria:**

1. Pilot projects will be awarded to active Winship members. To maintain active membership status, one must meet the following criteria:
   a. Member should attend at least 50% of the published meetings of the research program to which he/she belongs;
   b. Member must maintain a good financial standing with Winship;
   c. Member should appropriately acknowledge the Winship Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) on all publications resulting from services in one or more Winship Shared Resources;
   d. Members must acknowledge the appropriate pilot fund source on all publications resulting from work supported by the Winship Invest$ Program.
2. Winship members will qualify for only one pilot project grant in a given year, and may not submit more than one proposal through this 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](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 and must include:
   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
   e. 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.
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 annual progress reports to the Winship Executive Committee. Specific instructions on due dates of reports are provided at the time of funding.

**Key Dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Intent</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application receipt date:</td>
<td>May 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated start date:</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letters of Intent should identify the PI, all potential collaborators on the project, the research domain for which the project is to be considered, a proposed title for the research project, and a brief description of the proposed research project. Letters of Intent should be no longer than two pages.

Application packets can be downloaded from [https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/funding-opportunities/index.html](https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/funding-opportunities/index.html). Applications should be submitted as a single PDF and emailed to winshipgrants@emory.edu no later than 5:00pm on May 2, 2016. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to Mr. Jeff Mills (404-727-3634 or via e-mail at jeff.mills@emory.edu).