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## **Emory University Lung Cancer SPORE/Winship Invest\$ Career Enhancement Program (CEP) Request for Grant Proposals**

Emory University's Lung Cancer SPORE aims to promote the advancement of early career lung cancer investigators through the conduct of a **mentored Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**. The goals of the Lung Cancer SPORE CEP are to provide mentoring and guidance for early career 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 lung cancer**, and to enhance diversity among the lung cancer research community. The CEP aims to provide an environment that enables talented early career investigators to engage in a 2-year mentored research program and to facilitate their success and their academic career development in terms of achieving independent investigator status.

Translational research in SPOREs 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.

This RFP is designed to solicit proposals from eligible candidates (criteria listed below) and will fund CEP candidates for **2 years upon successful completion of the first year, with a maximum of \$50,000 per year in direct funds**. Proposals relevant to lung 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 twice-annual progress reports to the CEP Committee and to present their progress twice annually at the Lung Cancer SPORE investigator meeting. Awardees are granted access to the SPORE Administrative, Pathology, and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics 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.**

### *Career Enhancement Program Eligibility:*

CEP candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Commitment to a career focused on basic, clinical and translational research in lung cancer.
- Completion of a Medical Oncology/Hematology or Thoracic Surgery or General Surgery residency, OR a Radiation Oncology residency with board certification or eligibility, OR a PhD program in a basic science discipline with postdoctoral training and relevant oncology research experience.
- Commitment to complete two years of translational research. One-year awards will be considered in unique situations for individuals with considerable research background who wish to redirect or extend an ongoing research program into lung cancer research
- Excellence in interpersonal relationships as documented by letters of recommendation
- Evidence of high-quality peer reviewed publications in lung cancer or translational research
- Potential for independent, peer-reviewed funding

- Advanced post-doctoral or clinical fellows must provide a letter from an institution stating that the candidate will be joining its faculty within the year

#### 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.
- Awardees are expected to submit progress reports to the SPORE CEP Committee. Specific instructions on due dates of reports are provided at the time of funding.
- Awardees will be expected to appropriately reference the Emory University Lung Cancer SPORE and Winship in all acknowledgments as well as provide progress reports upon request.
- Awardees are required to attend at least 50% of the monthly Lung SPORE Program Meetings.

#### Mentor Selection:

Each application must specify at least one mentor from the SPORE Career Enhancement Mentoring Faculty (see Table). Selection of an additional alternative mentor outside Winship or from a different department is encouraged and may be proposed with an explanation of the relationship of the mentors 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.

#### Career Enhancement Program Application Package:

Applicants are required to submit the following documents. Application packages can be downloaded from the Winship's website <https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/funding-opportunities/lung-spore-pilot-grants.html>

Please use Arial font size 11 point throughout the proposal. Emory applicants should not route this proposal through OSP or enter it into EPEX.

#### **CEP Faculty**

Rafi Ahmed  
Xingming Deng  
Haian Fu  
Douglas Graham  
Kristin Higgins  
Sumin Kang  
Adam Marcus  
Rebecca Pentz  
Suresh Ramalingam  
Ignacio Sanz  
Conor Steuer

- Completed Application Summary Form.
- NIH biosketch (for project investigator only)
- Abstract (not to exceed 500 words)
- **Career enhancement description** limited to 5 pages, organized under the headings:
  - Candidate's Training and Experience
  - Career Goals and Objectives
  - Career Enhancement Plan
  - Selection of Mentor(s)
  - Evaluation of Candidate's Progress (*continuation of year 2 awardees only*)
- **Project narrative** limited to 5 pages, organized under the headings:
  - A. Specific Aims
  - B. Background and Significance
  - C. Preliminary Studies (or Preliminary Data if available)
  - D. Research Design and Methods. All proposals must include a clear plan for subsequent extramural grant submissions as a result of the work proposed.
  - E. 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 Data and Technology Applications Shared Resource (Winship DATA) are recommended. (<https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/shared-resources/winship-data-and-technology-applications.html>)
  - F. Timeline
  - G. Literature Cited (not included in the 5-page limit)
- Detailed budget with budget justification, including direct cost amounts for the budget period. A minimum

level of effort for the project leader of at least 5% (0.60 calendar months) is recommended.

- Letter of recommendation from applicant's department chair
- Letter of recommendation from applicant's mentor(s)
- Letter from an institution stating that the candidate will be joining its faculty within the year (for advanced post-doctoral or clinical fellows)
- A maximum of 3 items may be submitted in an appendix as support material.
- **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 (as Appendix materials):
  - a. Clinical Protocol and Informed Consent Form (draft to be submitted or IRB-approved protocol)
  - b. A plan to maintain clinical research data in Oncore or through the support of the Winship DATA
- 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)

Additional Information:

Budget expenditures allowed include:

- Salary for the principal investigator, co-investigators and/or staff
- Equipment purchases or rental (less than \$3,000)
- Research supplies
- Animal purchase and maintenance costs
- Technical assistance, core services
- Domestic travel to attend scientific conferences and program meetings relating to the proposed research
- Registration fees at relevant meetings
- Special fees (computer time, pathology, imaging, 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 personnel services to patients
- Training Cost
- Subcontracts

Applications should be uploaded on or before 11:59 pm on **Monday, May 1, 2023** to:

<https://intranet.winship.emory.edu/pilotgrant/Account/Login/?ReturnUrl=%2Fpilotgrant%2FApplicant>

Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to Dana Ray ([dmray@emory.edu](mailto:dmray@emory.edu)).

**Key Dates:**

RFP Launch Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023
Application Receipt Date:	Monday, May 1, 2023
Notification of Award Status:	Monday, May 22, 2023
Anticipated Start Date:	Thursday, June 1, 2023