



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research | Tina's Wish
Rising Star Grant
2026-27

Purpose

The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation ("Tina's Wish") is requesting Proposals for the *Tina's Wish Rising Star Grants* for 2026-27. Tina's Wish is committed to supporting early career researchers who bring fresh approaches to the study of the early detection or interception of ovarian cancer. The goal is to assist and support promising researchers in the ovarian cancer field and to encourage them to take risks and develop innovative projects.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria (*applicants must meet ALL the criteria listed*)

1. Applicants must be working in a school of medicine or public health, or a recognized non-profit scientific research facility in the United States.
2. Applicants should hold a PhD, MD, or MD, PhD degree.
 - a. **PhD applicants** must be in a postdoctoral position or within three (3) years of their first faculty appointment (a non-tenured level position) when the grant begins in January 2026. PhD applicants at the instructor level are eligible to apply if their lab is embedded in a more senior/established lab; PhD applicants at the Instructor level who have an independent lab should review the Team Science Grant (TSG) opportunity.
 - b. **MD or MD, PhD applicants** must be at the instructor or assistant professor level (or a similar faculty position) and within three years of starting their first faculty appointment at the time of the estimated award date (January 2026). ***Note: Clinical or research fellows with dedicated research time for the full two years of the Rising Star Grant funding period (January 2026-December 2027) will also be eligible. Fellows should include a letter of institutional commitment from one's department chair of at least 75% research time for the Rising Star Grant funding period with their application; dedicated research time can be contingent about receipt of the Rising Star grant.***
3. Applicants must have a committed mentor to support the applicant throughout the grant period. One's mentor does not need to be at the same institution as the applicant, provided that the mentor is committed to a meaningful and productive relationship throughout the grant period.
 - a. Please note that if one's current mentor is not connected to the ovarian cancer research community, please seek out a mentor that is a subject matter expert in the ovarian cancer field. If you need assistance in securing such a mentor, please let Tina's Wish know (this will not be considered a negative when reviewing your proposal).

4. Projects must be innovative and focused on early detection or interception of ovarian cancer. For this funding call, Interception refers to disruption of the oncogenic process during the precursor or precancer state. Research on primary prevention of cancer before the oncogenic process begins is not eligible.
5. The research project for which support is requested should be innovative and not currently funded.

Funding

1. Duration: two-years starting January 2026.
2. Total Funding available is \$200,000: this includes annual indirect costs not to exceed 10%.
3. The second year of funding is contingent on adequate progress during the first year.
4. Up to 10% of total grant funds may be requested to be used towards significant equipment purchase. If a significant equipment purchase is being requested, this should be included as a line item in the budget, and the application should include clear justification about how this funding for equipment would be critical to the specific aims of the grant. Applicants may be asked to re-allocate these requested funds towards other grant expenses if the request for equipment funding is not felt to be adequately justified during grant review.

Selection Process

1. The Tina's Wish Scientific Advisory Board and external reviewers will review the proposals and utilize NIH quantitative and qualitative criteria for evaluation.
2. Criteria used to assess the proposal will include the strength of the scientific proposal, a commitment on the part of the applicant to sustained research on early detection and/or interception of ovarian cancer, and a strong mentor relationship.

Timeline

1. **Full Proposal Application deadline: Monday, June 2nd, 12pm ET.**
2. Announcement of the 2026-27 Rising Star Grant (RSG) will be made by November 2025.
3. Written critiques will not be provided to any applicants.
4. Funding will commence on or around January 1, 2026.

Materials to Submit:

A. Contact Information – to be completed using the on-line submission form.

Name of Institution	
City, State	
Type of Institution	Educational Institution, Not-for-Profit Research Center, Other (please describe)
Project Title	
RSG Applicant Name & Position Title	Email/Phone
Mentor, Title & Institution (if different from RSG Applicant)	Email/Phone

Institutional contact for grant administration	Email/Phone
Name of Individual(s) to be in communication regarding the status of the application (if not the RSG applicant above)	Email/Phone
Amount of dedicated time to research	%; indicate if contingent upon receiving the Tina's Wish Rising Star Grant

B. Please send in one (1) pdf (submitted through the on-line site linked below)

a. Cover page including:

- i. Name of institution
- ii. Rising Star Grant Applicant Name, Position/Title
- iii. Rising Star Grant Applicant email and phone number
- iv. Mentor Name, Position/Title, Institution Name (if different from above)
 1. Is your mentor a part of the ovarian cancer research community?
 2. If not, who serves as our ovarian cancer subject-matter expert mentor?
- v. Title of Proposal

C. Research grant proposal in standard format. The proposal should be no longer than three pages inclusive of all figures, tables and supplemental materials. References are not part of the three-page limit. Page margins should all be at least 0.5 inches and font size should be 12 point, Times New Roman. An appendix should not be used to circumvent the page limit.

The research grant proposal should include (within the three-page limit):

- a. **Research strategy:** briefly describe the specific aims and approach to the proposed research.
- b. **Innovation:** briefly describe how the proposed research is innovative.
- c. **Impact:** briefly describe how the proposed research findings could impact a critical problem or question in early detection or prevention of ovarian cancer research.

The following items should be included with your submission (and do not count toward the three (3) page limit):

1. **NIH biosketch** for both the principal investigator/applicant and mentor.
2. **Career development statement:** A statement of 500 words or less describing the applicant's career development to date and future career goals.
3. **Project lay summary:** A 250-word public abstract in non-scientific terms for lay person review and Foundation use.
4. **Scientific summary:** 300 words
5. **Gantt chart** (deliverables and milestone) specifying activities in the first and second year and the criteria for measuring success and continuation at the end of year one. This can be omitted if only one year of support is requested.
6. **Mentor support letter:** A letter (not to exceed 500 words) of support from the applicant's mentor, who does not need to be at the same institution as the applicant, describing the relationship and how the mentor will support the applicant and facilitate the proposed project. An NIH biosketch for the mentor should also be included, as indicated above.

- a. If your primary mentor is not in the ovarian cancer research community, please include an additional brief letter, less than 250 words, from a secondary mentor who practices in this space of their support of your proposed research project.
7. **Budget in NIH format** describing the ways the requested funds would be spent. The proposal can describe up to a two-calendar year program of research and specify costs of up to \$100,000 per year total costs (i.e. direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are limited to 10% to ensure that as much of the Foundation's funding goes directly to research. NIH salary caps should be used. Up to 10% of total grant funds may be requested to be used towards significant equipment purchase. If a significant equipment purchase is being requested, this should be included as a line item in the budget, and the application should include clear justification about how this funding for equipment would be critical to the specific aims of the grant. Applicants may be asked to re-allocate these requested funds towards other grant expenses if the request for equipment funding is not felt to be adequately justified during grant review. Total Funding available is \$200,000.
8. **Letter(s) of support**, if applicable
9. **Letter of Support from department chair** verifying percentage (%) of protected time for research, if applicable

Grant Conditions

Grantees will be required to submit an annual scientific report regarding their progress, along with a lay-language update to help inform potential donors about progress that the Foundation is making. Progress reports must be reviewed and signed off by one's mentor prior to the submission deadline. Any deviations in work or aims from the proposal must be justified by a letter from one's mentor.

The Foundation will approve the second year of funding based on adequate progress achieved during the first year of funding.

In addition, the grantee is expected to be available to attend one in-person Foundation event each year, assuming geographically convenient to the grantee, typically in New York City, Boston, Richmond, D.C., Chicago and L.A., to help raise funds for ovarian cancer research. The grantee is expected to attend the annual symposium of funded researchers (typically in October in NYC). Travel expenses for such events should not be budgeted in the grant application and will be covered by the Foundation separately.

The funding is anticipated to begin on January 1, 2026.

Questions: contact Kelly Cancelmo, grants@tinaswish.org.

All proposals should be submitted electronically by Monday, June 2, 2025, 12pm ET to the online submission form:

[Link to form](#)



About Tina's Wish

The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research (Tina's Wish) is an ovarian cancer non-profit organization dedicated to funding groundbreaking scientific research for the early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer. At Tina's Wish, we believe that the most effective way to fight ovarian cancer is to diagnose it at its earliest, most curable stage or to prevent it from ever developing.

Tina's Wish was founded in 2008 in memory of the Honorable Tina Brozman, former chief judge of the SDNY Bankruptcy Court, who died two years after she was diagnosed – too late – with ovarian cancer. Tina was not angry that she had the disease, she was angry that she did not know sooner.

Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$29 million for its cause. Annually, Tina's Wish now funds \$2.4 million of scientific research for the early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer at 15 world class institutions.

We are accelerating the pace of progress towards saving women's lives. Together, we can make Tina Brozman's wish – to discover an effective early detection method for ovarian cancer – a reality.

For more information, visit our website at tinaswish.org

For examples of previously funded Rising Star Grant research projects, please visit <https://tinaswish.org/2024-25-rising-star-grantees/>