

**Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center
Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research
Catherine Peachey Fund**

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Request for Proposals with a Focus on Breast Cancer Research

The IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, and the Catherine Peachey Fund request applications with a focus on breast cancer research. Support for this award is provided by generous gifts to the Nakshatri Breast Cancer Breakthroughs Fund, in honor of Dr. Hari Nakshatri's long-time dedication to excellence in breast cancer research. Applications spanning the breast cancer research landscape will be considered, including discovery science, translational studies, clinical trials, behavioral interventions, and epidemiology. Cancer Center members may apply regardless of primary research focus, however, the focus of the application MUST be on breast cancer research. Investigators who would like to apply innovative tools or concepts in their area of expertise to breast cancer are eligible to apply. Funding is scheduled to begin on August 3, 2026.

The duration of this pilot funding is one year, and the budget should not exceed \$30,000. The principal investigator must be an IUSCCC member (faculty who are Associate or Full members of a Research Program, Clinical track members or Unaligned members). Only 1 application will be accepted per PI. Inter-programmatic collaboration is encouraged. Funds should not be used for fellowship or training purposes. Applicants may have received prior or current extramural research funding, but the proposed project should clearly be separate from previous/current funded projects. Proposals previously reviewed by a federal funding agency or peer reviewed foundation, scored favorably, and now under revision will be given additional consideration (a copy of the summary statement should be enclosed).

Notice of Intent: Applicants must send an email to Vicki Clements (cancrfa@iu.edu) declaring their intent to apply. Please include the names of all collaborators/team members as well as a 1-2 sentence description of the project and tentative project title. Applicants' eligibility will be reviewed and they will be sent a response inviting a full application. **Deadline for submission of NOI: May 4, 2026 at 5pm.**

Applications will be completed via WebCAMP. A link to the application will be sent after an applicant's Notice of Intent has been approved. When completing your application, please be sure that you are using Google Chrome and select "IUSCCC" for the Center at the WebCAMP login page. Final applications are due by **June 12, 2026, at 5pm. The deadline is firm, and no extension will be granted.**

Final application formatting: The body of the proposal should not exceed three pages plus one page for Aims (total of 4 pages or less). Applications must follow NIH guidelines and formatting (see Sect. 2.6, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf>).

Format for full proposal: Abstract + half page Lay Summary + 1 page Specific Aims + 3 pages for Research Strategy (items D through G, below):

- A. Abstract (500 words) – not included in the page limit
- B. Lay summary of the project (no more than ½ page in length; not included in the page limit)
- C. Specific Aims
 1. Problem
 2. Aims and Hypotheses
 3. Outcomes
- D. Significance and Background
 1. Importance of problem to field
 2. Any relevant preliminary data to support hypothesis
 3. How will project increase scientific knowledge, clinical practice etc.
- E. Investigators
 1. Is there adequate expertise to support this study? Please detail mentorship support and any relevant collaborations, particularly with junior faculty.

F. Approach

1. Overall strategy, methodology, data collection, measures, interventions, theory & sample, power & data analyses.

G. Relevant for future development

1. How will this project lead to future funding?
2. Pathway for translation of the project into the clinic

(4 Page Limit Ends Here)

Additional documents that must be included with the application are listed below.

1. References
2. Budget
 - A detailed budget and justification must be attached. Proposals should not include percent effort (salary) for faculty or clinicians. Other non-allowable budget items: travel, publication costs or equipment. Applicants can request percent effort for lab personnel on the project, but that effort cannot exceed 30% of the total budget.
3. Biosketches of all investigators in the new format as announced by the NIH for 2026 Grant Applications.
4. Timeline
5. Table of prior pilot funding from the cancer center and return on investment
 - Include a table with the project title and amount funded for any pilot funding the PI has received in the past 5 years. In the table, please list publications and external grants received related to the pilot funded project(s).

An expert review committee will review all proposals. Previous pilot funding received by the PI and results of that pilot funding will be taken into consideration during the review process. Final funding decisions will be made by the IUSCCC Executive Committee and based on scientific review of applications and funding priorities.

1. Review Criteria are:

- Scientific merit
- Potential for sustaining intra- and inter- disciplinary collaborations
- Potential for subsequent peer reviewed external funding
- Success of prior IUSCCC-funded pilot projects lead by the PI*

Post Award Requirements:

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Awardees are required to report any publications and grants submitted and/or funded as a result of this pilot award to the Cancer Center.
- During the active project period, awardees are required to serve as a reviewer for at least one IUSCCC pilot funding mechanism. If an NCE is granted, the PI must serve as a reviewer and as a mentor at least once during each year of the extension.
- Awardees are required to submit a one-page, layperson-friendly project impact report suitable for donor audiences. The report is due to the IUSCCC Development Office by **August 15, 2027**. In addition, awardees may be asked to provide brief, informal updates during the funding period if requested for donor engagement purposes.
- Contributing to the success of the IUSCCC training programs is a required and integral component of this award. Awardees are expected to participate in **at least one** of the following activities during the award period: **Selection Committee of the Translational Cancer Biology PhD program, Graduate Training or Teaching Contribution.**

The timetable is:

Notice of intent to apply:	May 4, 2026, at 5pm
Completed application submitted:	June 12, 2026, at 5pm
Anticipated funding start date:	August 3, 2026

For questions about this funding mechanism, please reach out to: Vicki Clements, Project Management Specialist at cancrfa@iu.edu.