

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Request for Pilot Project Proposals from IUSCCC Early Career Investigators

IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Cancer Center Junior Faculty Special Interest Group (JFSIG) is inviting proposals for pilot/feasibility research projects in any area of basic, translational, or clinical cancer research (diagnostics, therapeutics), and population science research (prevention, survivorship, quality of life, epidemiology) that would serve to advance the applicants' career goals.

The duration of this pilot funding is one year, and the budget should not exceed \$50,000. The principal investigator must be an Associate or Research Track level member in a Cancer Center Research Program (CPC, EDT, or CBM) or a Clinical Track Cancer Center member at the level of: Assistant Professor, Research Assistant Professor, Assistant Scientist, Associate Research Professor, or Research Scientist. Current post-docs and residents/fellows are also eligible, provided they will have a full-time faculty appointment and will be an Associate, Research or Clinical Track level Cancer Center member at the time of funding awards. Notification of Intent can be submitted without Cancer Center membership approval; however, membership approval must be received by the time of award. To apply for Cancer Center membership, investigators will need to fill out an application via [this link](#) and must do so by May 11th, 2026. Please note that membership is not guaranteed; applicants must meet membership criteria as outlined on the website. Applications are reviewed by cancer center leadership and the investigator will be notified of member status ~3-4 weeks after application submission.

Applicants with prior funding from this mechanism or with current funding from a national competitive research grant are NOT eligible to apply (Applicants may have funding from foundation grants if the grant is not the result of a national peer-reviewed competition and is for support of a different project). Those who hold an F, K or mentored grant are eligible and encouraged to apply. Those with a K99/R00 grant must be in the K phase of the grant to be eligible.

Those interested in applying **must submit a Notification of Intent to Apply by April 6th, 2026 by 5pm** with the following information:

- Your name, the names of all collaborators/team members, a draft title for your proposal, the members of your mentoring committee (if any), and 1-2 sentences describing the project.
- Please send this information in an email to Vicki Clements at vlclemen@iu.edu.

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 May 11th, 2026 at 5pm. The deadline is firm, and no extension will be granted.

Format for full proposal: 500 word Abstract + 1/2 page lay summary + 1 page Specific Aims + 4 pages for Research Strategy (items C, D, E & F below):

- A Abstract (500 words) – not included in the page limit
- A. Description of the project using layman's terms (no more than ½ page in length; not included in the page limit)
- B Specific Aims
- 1 Problem
 - 2 Aims and Hypotheses
 - 3 Outcomes
- C 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.
- D Investigators
- 1 Is there adequate expertise to support this study? Please detail mentorship support and any relevant collaborations, particularly with other junior faculty.
- E Approach

- 1 Overall strategy, methodology, data collection, measures, interventions, theory & sample, power & data analyses. Please be sure to maximize page limits to describe and justify your approach in detail.
- F Relevant for future development
- 1 How will this project lead to future funding?
 - 2 What are the applicant's long-term career goals and how does this project help make a step toward those goals?

(5 Page Limit Ends Here)

- A Response to prior critiques (If you applied to this mechanism previously but *did not* receive funding)
- 1 A 1-page response to the reviewer critiques at the beginning of your application package. This does not count towards the 5-page limit.
- B Budget
- 1 A detailed budget and justification must be attached. Proposals should not include percent effort (salary) for faculty.
- C Timeline
- D Biosketches of all investigators in the new format as announced by the NIH for 2026 Grant Applications.

Applications will be reviewed by a select panel of senior and junior cancer center members. Final funding decisions will be made by the Cancer Center Executive Committee, based on scientific review of applications and funding priorities.

Awardee Requirements:

- 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.
- 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, Graduate Training or Teaching Contribution.**

The timetable is:

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| Notice of intent to apply: | April 6 th , 2026 at 5pm (via email to Vicki) |
| Apply for Cancer Center Membership: | May 11 th , 2026 |
| Completed application: | May 11 th , 2026 at 5pm (via WebCAMP) |
| Anticipated funding start date: | August 2026 |

For questions about this funding mechanism, please reach out to:

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