

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center Announcement

A Request for Proposals for the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant Competition

General Information:

The IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center is pleased to announce the availability of funds for new pilot projects to assist new IU investigators who hold the rank of **Assistant Professor, Research Assistant Professor, or Assistant Scientist who is within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment but without an active (i.e., NIH, NSF, ACS) national competitive research grant, regardless of the topic.** These funds are from the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG). *This grant provides support for beginning investigators to enable them to initiate their independent research program.*

The purpose of the ACS-IRG program is to attract new investigators from Indiana University into cancer research and to provide support for new pilot studies that will produce preliminary data for the investigator to develop into studies that will compete successfully for external, national funds from both federal and private sources. Faculty from the School of Medicine and its regional campuses, Schools of Nursing, Dentistry, Optometry, Public and Environmental Affairs, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Liberal Arts, Law, Science, and Informatics are especially encouraged to apply.

Funding:

- Funding is available for three pilot projects, beginning **January 1, 2025**, in amounts up to \$50,000.

Eligibility:

Applications are invited from **IU faculty** with ranks of Assistant Professor, Research Assistant Professor, or Assistant Scientist. Proposals **MUST** describe new pilot studies in cancer research. ACS Guidelines specify that applicants with prior funding from the ACS-IRG or with significant funding from other sources are **NOT** eligible to apply (Applicants may have funding from foundation grants as long as the grant is not the result of a national peer-reviewed competition and is for support of a different project), however, those who hold an F or K grant are eligible and are encouraged to apply. **Applicants are encouraged to check their funding status with Crystal Baker (crybanks@iu.edu) prior to the initiation of an application.**

APPLICANTS MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS, OR SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR VISA** WITH THE APPLICATION.

**** Any applicant for IRG pilot project funding who is not a U.S. citizen must hold a visa that will allow him or her to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the IRG pilot project.*

Application Information and Guidelines:

- Applicants interested in applying must submit a Notification of Intent to Apply by Wednesday, October 2nd at 11:59pm with the following information:
 - Your name, a draft title for your proposal and 1-2 sentences describing the project. This information will be used to help identify reviewers
 - Please send this information in an email to Crystal Baker at crybanks@iu.edu
- All applications must present a clear plan for pursuing external funding based on the pilot project you submit to the ACS-IRG.
- You must use the provided ACS-IRG template for your application. Some general guidelines to follow are included below.
 - The body of the proposal must not exceed 5 pages and follow standard NIH format. Appendices may not be more than 4 pages and must not be used to circumvent the page limits of the proposal (acceptable appendix items include a copy of surveys/questionnaires and copy of draft or IRB approved protocol). Proposals must follow formatting guidelines of fonts of Helvetica or Arial, font size 11 point or larger and ½ inch margins. Sections to cover in the body of the proposal (5 pages total):
 - ✓ Hypothesis and Aims
 - ✓ Background and Rationale for Pilot Study

- ✓ High Level Description of Research Design/Methods/Data Collection (*Note: Make sure to include a description of 1) What preliminary data you feel are needed that would allow you to submit for external funding; and 2) Statistical plan/rationale*)
- ✓ Potential sources for external funding
- ✓ Therapeutic Indication/Target Population

Following the body of the grant:

- ✓ 1-2 paragraph (max 1 page) summary of the project in lay/non-scientific terms (not included in 5-page limit)
- ✓ References (not included in the 5-page limit)
- ✓ Budget and Budget Justification (not included in 5-page limit)
- ✓ All applications require a letter from the Department Chair certifying that the research proposal is independent of the research program of the mentor
- ✓ All applications also require include a Letter of Support from the Chair of the PIs mentoring committee describing its membership and activities/mentoring plan
- Proposals which exceed the page numbers or fail to follow the formatting guidelines will be returned to the investigator without review

Post Award Requirements:

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Provide six month and annual progress reports, including information on publications, grants and intellectual property for a total of seven years
- Present their research at an interactive poster session during the IUSCCC's Cancer Research Day
- Participate in at least one service opportunity sponsored by the ACS during the year of funding
- Acknowledge receipt of ACS support in any presentation or publication of work funded by the ACS-IRG Grant Mechanism.

Criteria for Review:

1. Cancer relatedness
2. Scientific merit
3. Potential for subsequent peer reviewed funding

Proposal Submission Timeline:

- LOI Due: **October 2, 2024 @ 11:59pm**
- Completed Application Due: **October 21, 2024 @11:59pm**
- Funding Start Date: **January 1, 2025**

An electronic copy of the completed submission in .PDF format should be submitted to:

Crystal Baker
IUSCCC Project Management Specialist
crybanks@iu.edu