

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
*A Request for Pilot Project Proposals*

The IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research requests applications for pilot funding to support innovative research. Proposals **must** address one of two high priority, understudied areas:

- 1) Male Breast cancer
- 2) Inflammatory breast cancer

A total of up to \$50,000 per project is available. Areas of interest include (but are not limited to) tumor genetics/genomics, metastasis, tumor immunology, and racial/ethnic disparities. Use of the breast cancer tissue microarray, IBC tissue bank, samples from the Komen normal tissue bank, or PHI-TNBC PDX models are encouraged, but not required.

All of the following will be considered:

- Proposals for basic, translational, clinical, and population research
- New and established research projects
- Single investigator or collaborative research teams from one or more institutions
- Projects currently supported by external or internal funding may apply but the application must clearly state what additional studies will be conducted with this support

Funding will be allocated from the IUSCCC using the ITRAC process. Project mapping must be completed prior to the application submission date. To schedule the project mapping, contact Kaitlin Evans ([kcondron@iu.edu](mailto:kcondron@iu.edu)) by **May 5, 2023**.

Final applications are due by **May 22, 2023**. The body of the proposal (2-5 below) should not exceed three pages and should include specific plan/timeline for future peer review funding applications. A detailed budget is not required, but justification for expected costs should be included. An electronic copy in PDF format should be submitted and should include:

1. Abstract (NIH format; 30 lines)
2. Aims (1 page max)
3. Significance
4. Innovation
5. Approach
6. Budget justification
7. NIH biosketch
8. ITRAC Map

An expert review committee comprising members of the VB Center and other cancer center programs will review all proposals.

Criteria for review are:

1. Scientific merit
2. Likelihood of leading to peer review funding
3. Participation in local and statewide program meetings and activities
4. Return on investment and productivity (external grants, publication) from previously funded pilot proposals

A complete application will need to be submitted through the CTSI WebCAMP platform – Kaitlin will provide a direct link and instructions for all applicants.