Request for Applications

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant:
Supporting Outstanding Academic Research in Oncology (SOAR) at the University of South Carolina

Grant Application Deadline: April 24, 2020

Background

The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy (UofSC-COP) is the recipient of the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG). The ACS IRG is an institutional three-year $270,000 award that enables UofSC to provide three, one-year pilot research grants annually to beginning investigators in cancer research who have no national competitive research grant support.

This grant is a renewal of a four-year previous ACS IRG award by UofSC that supported 16 Awards. Of these 16 Awardees, six have subsequently received R01 funding from the National Institutes of Health. Pilot awards will be up to $30,000 per year.

The principal investigator of this grant is Charles L. Bennett, M.D., Ph.D., MPP, SmartState Chair, Frank P. and Josie M. Fletcher Chair for Medication Safety and Efficacy, and Director of the SmartState Center for Medication Safety and Efficacy at UofSC-COP. Dr. Bennett was also the Principal Investigator of the prior four-year ACS IRG. The Vice-Chair of the ACS IRG is Shamia Hoque, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering, and ACS IRG Recipient in 2019. Nationally, there are only 45 universities that are recipients of this highly competitive ACS IRG, which is designed to provide research opportunities for new cancer investigators.

A study section made up of cancer investigators at UofSC will conduct peer-review of the grant applications. Applicants from investigators at all schools at any UofSC campus are strongly encouraged to consider applying for these grants.

Purpose of the ACS IRG

The goal of the ACS IRG is to attract beginning investigators into cancer research. The purpose is to support the initiation of promising new cancer research projects by independent, self-directed junior faculty members so they can obtain data that will allow them to successfully compete for peer-reviewed extramural cancer research grants.
The University of South Carolina and its various cancer programs collaborate with the local and national ACS to promote ACS research opportunities and to disseminate information about research findings and benefits to public and professional groups.

To learn more about the ACS IRG, visit the [LofSC College of Pharmacy website](#).

### Funding Period

Awards are for a 12-month period, from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. Three (3) awards of up to $30,000 each, focusing on cancer research will be funded.

### Eligibility Criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply to applicants for the individual awards:

- Applicants must be within six (6) years of their first independent research or faculty appointment at any University of South Carolina campus. Investigators who are adjunct assistant, associate, or full professor at any University of South Carolina campus and/or who are clinicians at the WJB Dorn Veterans Administration Medical Center may be considered as well. For applicants who are not full-time at the University of South Carolina, a letter from a mentor for their proposed project indicating that the applicant plans to seek subsequent peer-reviewed funding would be necessary. (Support of senior investigators, postdoctoral fellows, or junior investigators who have received prior support from the ACS IRG is not permitted).

- Applicants must not be a Principal Investigator of any national peer-reviewed grant funding prior to IRG award (e.g., NIH K99/R00, R03, R01, R21, National ACS award, National DOD award etc). Individuals with career development awards (NIH K awards and other career development awards from national foundations) are eligible.

- Individuals who have received national peer-reviewed research grants that were not renewed and who are still at the level of assistant professor may apply for an individual IRG—provided they are within the first six years of their independent faculty (or equivalent) appointment and have not received funds from the ACS IRG before.

- Parties that have previously received this reward are not eligible and therefore should not apply for this grant.

- Applicants must at the time of the application have U.S. residency status or hold a visa that will allow time for full completion of the project.

- Applicants must be a faculty member at any campus of the University of South Carolina (tenure-track, clinical, research faculty, and adjunct faculty) or clinician/PhD./Pharm.D. at the WJB Dorn VA Medical Center.
Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed by two or more ACS IRG committee members including a biostatistician and scored by each committee member using the NIH scoring system and process. Written evaluations of the projects will be provided to individual applicants after the funding decisions have been made.

Review Criteria

1. Proposed research has direct cancer relevance and addresses an important problem in cancer.
2. There is high probability that the pilot project supported by this sub-award will form the basis for major peer-reviewed funding.

Timeline for Submission and Review

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<tr>
<th>Grant Application Deadline</th>
<th>April 24, 2020</th>
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<td>Please submit all application materials by 5:00 p.m. EST on the grant application deadline listed above.</td>
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<th>Review of Grant Applications</th>
<th>April 27, 2020 – May 8, 2020</th>
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<th>Notification of Outcomes</th>
<th>May 13, 2020</th>
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<td>Please notify your department's business manager if you are announced as a recipient.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Grant Start Date</th>
<th>June 1, 2020</th>
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<td>Every effort will be made to have awards allocated by the grant start date listed above.</td>
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Guidelines for Submission

**Grant Application Deadline**: April 24, 2020

Email your completed application as a single PDF file to bennette@cop.sc.edu

Application Format
Use a standard 12 point font such as Arial or Times New Roman, single-spaced, and half inch margins throughout the application. Consecutively number pages at the bottom of each page.

Download the Application Form from the UofSC College of Pharmacy website.

1. Table of Contents

Provide the page number for each category listed in the Table of Contents. Number pages consecutively at the bottom of each page of the application.

2. Response to Reviewers

FOR RESUBMISSIONS ONLY: Allow 1 page for response to reviewers. (This will apply to grants submitted under the prior ACS IRG RFA for years 2012 - 2016).

3. Detailed Budget

Complete the 12-month budget portion of the Application Form. Note the following budget guidelines:

   a. Budget cap is $30,000.
   b. Include direct costs only; there are NO indirect costs associated with this grant.
   c. No faculty salaries can be included. However, the appropriate amount of effort the PI and collaborators will contribute to this project must be indicated. Principal Investigators (PIs) must attribute at least 5% effort to this project, which will be a cost share through their departments. If other faculty will be providing measurable effort, their departments will be required to provide documentation of cost share. It is recommended that pre-approval of this cost share is obtained prior to submission of your application.

Expenditures Allowed

❖ Research supplies and animal maintenance
❖ Technical assistance
❖ Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program
❖ Publication costs, including reprints
❖ Costs of computer time
❖ Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
❖ Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member
❖ Equipment costing less than $2,000. (Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount)
❖ Registration fees at scientific meetings
Expenditures Not Allowed

- Secretarial/administrative personnel
- Salary of principal investigator
- Tuition
- Foreign travel; special consideration will be given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Per Diem charges for hospital beds
- Non-medical services to patients
- Construction or building maintenance
- Major alterations
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies

4. Budget Justification

On a separate page, clearly justify each item requested in the budget. Describe mentors and collaborators and their roles on the project.

5. Biographical Sketch

Use NIH Biosketch. Include most recent and relevant peer-reviewed publications. Include any present or recently completed research support. Include biosketches of collaborators and mentors.

6. Facilities and Resources

Use the Facilities and Resources Form attached to this email to describe resources and facilities available to support proposed research.

7. Letter of Support

Provide letter of support from your Department Chair or Division Director for proposed research.
8. Research Plan (6 pages maximum)

The research plan should include sufficient information for evaluation of the project, independent of any other document. No appendices allowed.

a. **Specific Aims:** List the broad, long-term objectives and what the specific research in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypotheses to be tested.

b. **Background and Significance:** Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the gaps that the project intends to fill. State concisely the importance and health relevance of the research described in the application by relating the specific aims to the broad long-term objectives.

c. **Preliminary Studies:** Use this section to provide an account of the PI’s preliminary studies pertinent to the application that will help establish the experience and competence of the PI to pursue the proposed project.

d. **Research Design and Methods:** Describe how you will do the research. Describe the research design and procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Point out any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precaution to be exercised.

9. Literature Cited (Not included in the 6-page maximum)

List all references. Each reference must include the title, name of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers and year of publication. The reference should be limited to relevant and current literature pertinent to the proposed project.

**Requirements Prior to Receipt of Funding**

IRB and IACUC approvals must be received by UofSC-COP before any funding will be released. If approvals are not applicable, an exemption letter will be required. The institution, in which the applicant is a member, must provide research facilities or space customary for an independent investigator.

**Questions**

**Charles L. Bennett, M.D., Ph.D., MPP**
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