



**Atrium Health**  
**Wake Forest Baptist**

**Comprehensive  
Cancer Center**

**Junior Faculty Institutional Research Pilot  
Request for Applications**

**Deadline extended to Monday, March 25, 2024, 5 pm EST**

**Purpose**

The Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) is pleased to announce the availability of Internal Research Grant funds from the American Cancer Society. The purpose of the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG) is to promote innovative cancer research by supporting the initiation of cancer research projects that will produce preliminary results and enable junior faculty to successfully compete for national research grants. At the core of this effort, both the CCC and LCI will extend available resources and expertise to junior faculty investigators to foster their research ideas and help them to successfully compete for national funding.

Studies in all areas of cancer research - laboratory, clinical, prevention and control, and psychosocial cancer research - will be considered for funding. Proposal budgets may be up to \$50,000. Applications will be reviewed by the ACS-IRG review committee and up to five meritorious applications will be selected.

We are interested in projects that highlight the “value-added” aspects of AHWFBCCC, such as a focus on translational research, use of AHWFBCCC Shared Resources, and new investigator teams. Projects that can lead to multi-PI extramural grant applications, as well as inter-institutional (with other institutions) collaborations are encouraged. Special consideration will be given to projects that are expected to reduce disparities across the cancer control continuum.

**Eligibility**

Applications will be considered responsive to the call if they meet the following criteria:

- Applicants are appointed as faculty by Wake Forest University, Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering, or Wake Forest University School of Medicine at the academic rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor or equivalent and eligible to apply for independent national grants;
- Applicants cannot have received prior, or hold current, major funding from a national peer-reviewed source (R01, R21, R25, NSF, ACS, AHA, DOD, etc.). K-awards are allowable;
- Applicants should be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment;
- Application includes a strategy for submission of a larger grant application, such as R01, to further the work developed in this pilot; and
- Applicants must have an established mentor team at the time of proposal submission.
- An individual may apply for a one-year competitive renewal of a previously funded pilot project grant. However, the applicant must submit a progress report with the application.

\*Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to collaborate with a CCC member.



## Key Dates

| Date                     | Detail                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3/11/2024 <b>3/25/24</b> | Full Application Deadline      |
| 4/15/2024                | Anticipated project Start Date |
| 4/14/2025                | Latest Project End Date        |
| 5/1/2025                 | 12-month Progress Report Due   |

## Funding

Up to four applications will be funded with a maximum funding of \$50,000 for 12-months. See section on Budget Guidelines for more details on allowable and non-allowable budget items, as funded by ACS-IRG.

## Application Procedure

**Full Application Deadline has been extended to: Monday, March 25, 2024, 5 pm EST**

The application can be submitted through [REDCap](#), by the deadline noted above. Application instructions are summarized below.

### Format Specifications

- Arial font and no smaller than 11 point.
- Margins at least 0.5 inches (sides, top and bottom).
- Single-spaced lines.
- Consecutively numbered pages.

### Submission/Applicant Information

- Project Title
- Submitting Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), and other Key Personnel information (including mentor team of at least three faculty members)

### Abstract (500 words max)

- Applications must include a summary of the project. It should consist of a brief description of the objectives, rationale, methods, and expected results. (Limit 250 words)
- Applications must include a description of the project's cancer-relevance. (Limit 250 words)

### Public Summary/Lay Abstract (*optional*)

- [Dubé CE, Lapane KL. Lay abstracts and summaries: writing advice for scientists. J Cancer Educ. 2014 Sep;29\(3\):577-9. doi: 10.1007/s13187-013-0570-1. PMID: 24132543.](#)

### Research Plan (limited to 6 pages, including figures, tables, and other relevant data)

- Specific Aims (no more than 1/2 page): Describe the goals of the pilot project as well as the future project proposal for extramural funding.
- Background and Innovation (limited to 1 page): Explain how the project addresses an important problem, how it will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice.
- Preliminary Studies (limited to 1-1/2 pages)
- Experimental Design, scientific rigor and future funding plan (limited to 3 pages): Describe the overall strategy for this project, including potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success.



- *Projected Timeline.*

## References (no page limit)

### Information Regarding Human Subjects

Address the following if the project **involves human subjects**.

- Provide a one-page document addressing the Protection of Human Subjects, if applicable.
- IRB Approval Status (please note: IRB approval is not required for full application submission, however **a delay in IRB approval does not alter the project end date**)  
Pre submission discussion with the Wake Forest IRB is strongly suggested.

### Information Regarding Live Vertebrates if applicable.

- IACUC Approval Status (please note: IACUC approval is not required for full application submission, however **a delay in IACUC approval does not alter the project end date**)

### Budget and Justification (budget template plus 1-page justification)

- Complete the budget template form provided in [REDCap](#) along with a brief justification for the funds requested for this RFA. Please include an explanation of other resources that may be leveraged to support the project.
- Sub-awards to other institutions to carry out work on a project are not allowed.

### NIH-style biographical sketch for all Key Personnel

### Other Supporting Documents

Assistant Professors and Instructors are required to submit a letter of support from the chair or division head stating the independence of the application and the unit's commitment to the applicant.

### Budget Guidelines

The budget period is for 12-months. Up to \$50,000 in direct costs may be requested. No indirect costs are allowed.

Grant funds may be budgeted for:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technical assistance
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants
- Registration fees at scientific meetings
- Domestic travel necessary to perform the research
- Small equipment deemed necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project (less than \$2,000)

Grant funds may **not** be budgeted for:

- Salary of Principal Investigator
- Secretarial/Administrative salaries
- Student tuition and student fees including graduate and undergraduate foreign travel.
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Foreign travel



- Books and periodicals
- Per diem charges for hospital bed
- Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable expenses)
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies

Awarded funds must be used to conduct the work proposed. All direct charges to this award must adhere to federal regulations and requirements. The Director of ACS-IRG reserves the right to revoke funding in the event it is determined that funds were not spent in accordance with the approved protocol.

### Review Criteria and Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the ACS-IRG review committee. Any IACUC and/or IRB protocols must be approved prior to funding of the approved pilot.

### Reviewers will score applications from 1 to 9 based on:

1. Significance of the problem to be addressed.
2. Innovation of the proposed solutions.
3. Strength and breadth of the investigative team.
4. Methodological rigor and feasibility with clear milestones.
5. Likelihood the innovation will be broadly applicable and have impact on translational cancer research.
6. A reporting plan regardless of whether the study yields positive or negative results;
7. Other elements to be considered in the review include: the likelihood that the investment will lead to external funding or a licensable innovation, early-career faculty involvement, race/gender inclusiveness of the research team and inclusion of women, minorities, older adults, and children as potential participants.

### Program Expectations

Should any significant issues arise, the study team will be required to work with the AHWFBCCC Director to define an intervention strategy for the study to be successfully completed (or in rare cases, terminated).

### Specific Deliverables Include (not a complete list):

- Key preliminary data needed for a revised extramural grant application.
- Proof of concept data to establish a novel scientific hypothesis or approach.
- A completed application to an extramural RFA.
- A publication establishing a new collaboration.

### Other Guidelines

1. Prior to receiving funds, research involving human subjects must have appropriate approval from the IRB. Either an IRB approval letter or an IRB response to a "Determination Whether Research or Similar Activities Require IRB Approval" must be submitted to the AHWFBCCC prior to funds being released. Human subjects must be reviewed in accordance with the institution's general assurances and HIPAA. All key



personnel must have certification of training in the protection of human subjects prior to the start of the grant period.

2. It is expected the PI will report outcomes achieved due to the pilot award, e.g., subsequent external funding, publications, presentations, and patents, including participation in relevant Program activities such as research updates at Program meetings or retreats.
3. Any awardee who leaves his or her position should contact the ACS IRG team to discuss future plans for the project.
4. As a result of your grant, you are required to submit annual updates for a total of 7 years documenting your publication and grant successes and plans. These reports are critical for successful ACS IRG grant renewal. Failure to submit a final report could jeopardize future funding to the individual and/or the institution.
5. 4. Publications resulting from this award must contain the following acknowledgement: "Supported by ACS IRG-22-157-01-IRG from the American Cancer Society to the Wake Forest University Health Science."
6. 5. If the Cancer Center shared resources are used, acknowledgment to the Cancer Center Support Grant (P30CACA012197) is required and the publications must be submitted to PubMed Central. Citation language is available on each [shared resource page](#).

### Grant Administration

Projects will be for a 12-month period of time unless otherwise stated. A progress report will be required at the end of the 12 months and no-cost extensions may be requested at that time with sufficient justification and remaining funds.

### Contacts

Questions about your research proposal should be directed to Kounosuke (Ko) Watabe, Ph.D. ([kwatabe@wakehealth.edu](mailto:kwatabe@wakehealth.edu)).

Questions about the budgetary issues should be directed to Bobbie Lindsay at [blindsay@wakehealth.edu](mailto:blindsay@wakehealth.edu).

Questions about the REDCap system should be directed to Natalie Barrett at [nbarrett@wakehealth.edu](mailto:nbarrett@wakehealth.edu).