Massey Cancer Center
Virginia Commonwealth University
American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG)
Deadline: 7/10/2018

Massey Cancer Center announces the availability of American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants for junior faculty to conduct cancer-related research projects.

Investigator Eligibility

- Only junior-level faculty members are eligible for the ACS IRG. Junior investigators are faculty within 6 years of their first independent faculty appointment or equivalent (e.g., Assistant Professor, Research Assistant Professor). An individual who is currently an Instructor, but will be appointed as an Assistant Professor by the award date is also eligible (a letter from the Department Chair is required). Investigators who have already received a peer-reviewed national research grant are not eligible to apply. NIH Career Development (K) awards do not count as peer-reviewed national research grants for this purpose. Investigators who have received prior support from the ACS Institutional Research Grant are not eligible.

- Citizens, non-citizen nationals, and permanent residents of the United States and its possessions or territories are eligible. Recipients are not required to be U.S. citizens. However, they must hold a visa that will allow him or her to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the IRG pilot project.

- Non-faculty (e.g., residents, fellows) are not eligible.

- Applicant does not have to be a tenure track faculty member.

- Must be an Independent Investigator.

Research Project Criteria

- The ACS IRG funds innovative cancer research projects that have the potential for future peer-reviewed funding.
- Research projects currently funded through a national research grant will not be accepted.
- A letter must be provided from a mentor who will provide guidance for the proposed research.

Funding Limits

ACS IRG awards range from $5,000 - $30,000.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Allowable expenses include:</th>
<th>Non-allowable expenditures include:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research supplies and animal maintenance</td>
<td>Secretarial/administrative salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>Investigator/faculty salary support</td>
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<td>Domestic travel, when necessary to carry out the proposed research program</td>
<td>Tuition</td>
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<td>Publication costs, including reprints</td>
<td>- Foreign travel; however, special consideration will be given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada</td>
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<td>Costs of computer time</td>
<td>- Books and periodicals</td>
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<td>Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)</td>
<td>Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers</td>
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<td>Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to</td>
<td>Per-diem charges for hospital beds</td>
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<td>Non-medical services to patients</td>
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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, and permission must be obtained from the Society's Extramural Grants Department for the purchase of such equipment.
- Registration fees at scientific meetings

- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Membership dues

Questions regarding your proposed budget can be addressed to Olivia Patterson, MCC Center Programs Coordinator, 628-1931, opatterson@vcu.edu.

Award Period

The award period for the ACS IRG grant will be one year from December 1, 2017 – November 30, 2018. If awardee receives external funding, ACS funding must be relinquished by external funding award date.

Submission & Budget Guidelines

Application Overview

Applications must be submitted using the Massey Cancer Center ACS IRG Application Packet. This form and other required forms are found on the Massey Cancer Center website at https://www.massey.vcu.edu/research/funding/acs-institutional-research-grants/

The application for an Institutional Research Grant needs to include the following:

2. Abstracts – lay and technical language abstracts should summarize in 1 page or less the cancer relevance and significance of the proposed studies, the specific aims and expected outcomes, and how the work will contribute to the development of a full research proposal for submission to a national funding organization.
3. Project Description for Research Strategy
   a. Specific Aims – Limit 1 Page
   b. Research Strategy – Limit 6 Pages
      i. Significance
         1. Identify the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
         2. Identify how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
         3. Identify how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
      ii. Innovation
         1. Describe how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
         2. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
         3. Describe any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
      iii. Approach
         1. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
         2. Describe and address the potential problems.
3. Describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work if the project is in the early stages of development.
4. Address any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to other research associates and identify the precautions to be taken.
5. Describe the preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application.
6. Identify the potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. Include a description of future directions for your research, as well as a project timeline.

   c. Literature Citations
   d. Response to Reviewers’ Comments from Previous Submissions (if applicable) – Limit 1 Page


5. Faculty Research Promotion Form

6. Please provide a letter of support from the mentor explaining their role and how they will be involved in the mentoring process.

*The entire application package should be sent directly to the Cancer Center. Do not submit these documents to the VCU Office of Sponsored Programs Administration.

**Submission Deadline**

The deadline for submitting a completed ACS IRG application is July 1, 2017.

Please email your complete application to mccsubmission@vcu.edu, and add “ACS-IRG Application” in the subject line. Questions can be addressed to Olivia Patterson, MCC Center Programs Coordinator, 628-1931, opatterson@vcu.edu.

**Proposed Research Summary Checklist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>✓ Item</th>
<th>Page Limits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Biosketches for ALL Key Personnel</td>
<td>4 pages / person</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Abstract (lay and technical language)</td>
<td>1 page / abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Project Description for Research Strategy</td>
<td>7 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Specific Aims – Limit 1 Page</td>
<td></td>
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<td>b. Research Strategy – Limit 6 Pages</td>
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<td>d. Response to Reviewers’ Comments from Previous Submissions (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Proposed Budget</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Faculty Research Promotion Form</td>
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<td>6. Support Letter from Mentor</td>
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