



## Request for Proposals: 2020 LCRF Pilot Grant Program

### 1. Program Summary

Lung cancer continues to be the number one cause of cancer deaths worldwide, accounting for an estimated 136,000 deaths annually in the United States alone<sup>1</sup>. Despite being the most common cancer killer of both men and women, lung cancer research remains critically underfunded. To help close this gap and improve outcomes, the goal of the LCRF pilot grant program is to fund innovative projects across the full spectrum of basic, translational, clinical, epidemiological, health services, and other research. 2020 LCRF pilot grants will provide \$150,000 over a period of two years for projects focused on one or more of the following topics:

- Lung cancer biology
- Prevention and screening for early detection
- Identification of new biomarkers
- Development of more effective and less toxic therapies including but not limited to targeted and immune-therapies
- Mechanisms of sensitivity and resistance to lung cancer therapies
- Supportive measures for people with lung cancer and their families
- Quality of care and outcomes research

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

Investigators must be affiliated with a non-profit academic or research institution and must fall into one of the following categories:

- Students and fellows
- Young and mid-career investigators with less than ten years' experience since initial faculty appointment
- Non-tenure track researchers, staff scientists, and clinicians (any number years of experience)

Applicants from US-based and international institutions are eligible to apply and may hold any residency/citizenship status. Senior investigators with more than ten years' experience since faculty appointment are generally not eligible for funding and are encouraged to mentor a junior team member through the application process. However, exceptions will be made for investigators with more than ten years' experience in other disease areas or topics. Ineligible investigators with these or other special circumstances may request review by contacting the LCRF grants office (see Inquiries section below).

### 3. Budget Requirements

The maximum award amount is \$150,000 for a period of two years (disbursed at \$75,000 per year). Additional budget requirements and considerations include the following:

- Funding from this award may not be used to support institutional indirect / facilities and administrative costs.
- The LCRF grant must be the primary source of support for the project. Additional secondary funding (e.g. for core services support) is permitted.

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2020. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2020.

- There is no limit on the amount of salary support that may be requested. However, appropriate justification for all budget items is required. For laboratory-based projects, any salary requests in excess of 20% of the total budget must be explicitly justified.
- Any equipment costs must be limited and directly applicable to the research project (i.e. large, general equipment costs are not permitted).
- Direct patient care costs reimbursable by other sources may not be included.
- Travel and publication costs are permitted.

#### 4. Data Sharing and Open Access Policy

LCRF is committed to promoting open science by helping to increase access to investigators' findings and improving collaboration and data sharing among the lung cancer research community. Accordingly, it is a condition of LCRF funding that all peer-reviewed articles supported in whole or in part by LCRF funds must be made available in the PubMed Central online archive no later than twelve months after publication. In addition, LCRF grantees must indicate explicitly in all reports, publications, and other research communications whether the data, methods used in the analysis, and materials used to conduct the research will be made available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure. At the time of submission of the full proposal, all investigators must indicate if they will or will not make their data, analytic methods, and study materials available to other researchers.

#### 5. Application Instructions and Requirements

All applications for funding must be submitted through a two-stage process consisting of a letter of intent (LOI) and full proposal. Upon submission and review of the LOI, applicants whose submission is reviewed favorably will be invited to complete a full proposal. Any applications for an extension of a previously awarded grant require resubmission as a new compete application (LOI and subsequent full proposal) and must include an update describing the progress made during the prior award period.

The following application components are required for a complete submission:

| Letter of Intent  | Full Proposal   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Information / Demographics</li> <li>• Specific Aims (one page in length)</li> <li>• Biosketch<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal Summary</li> <li>• Narrative (six pages maximum):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Background and Significance</li> <li>○ Specific Aims</li> <li>○ Experimental Approach</li> <li>○ Preliminary Data (if applicable)</li> <li>○ References (not included in page-limit)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Success Factors</li> <li>• Timeline</li> <li>• Future Plans</li> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Letter(s) of Support<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> |

Additional Considerations:

1. All LOIs must include a NIH biosketch or curriculum vitae (five pages maximum length) of the primary investigator and any key personnel involved in the project.
2. At the full proposal stage, applications must include at least one letter of support from the principal investigator's program director/advisor affirming the following statements:
  - The applicant will be officially affiliated with or employed by the institution during the grant period.
  - There is adequate institutional space and equipment to accomplish the proposed project.

- The program director/advisor confirms his/her commitment to and provision of institutional space and equipment for the grantee.

Both LOIs and full proposals must be submitted through LCRF's online grants management system accessible at <http://lcrf.org/grantinterface>. Previews of the LOI and full application may be accessed at [http://lcrf.org/application\\_preview](http://lcrf.org/application_preview).

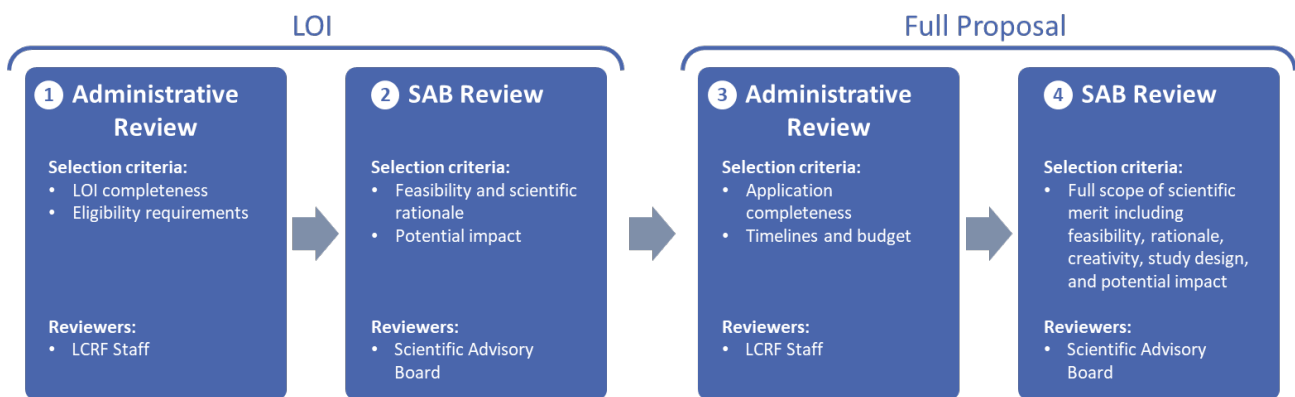
## 6. Timeline

*4/13/2020 Update: Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the application deadline and timeline have been extended to provide additional flexibility as indicated below.*

- LOI submission deadline: **May 29<sup>2</sup>**
- Applicants notified of LOI decision: July 27
- Full proposal submission deadline: **September 8<sup>2</sup>**
- Notification of award: November 9
- Project start: December

## 7. Evaluation of Applications

All applications are evaluated using a two-stage review process consisting of an LOI and full proposal. Only applicants whose LOI is reviewed favorably will be invited to submit a full proposal. At each stage, the evaluation consists of an administrative review followed by a comprehensive review by LCRF's Scientific Advisory Board (see figure below). At the LOI stage, evaluations will focus on high-level aspects of the research proposal including overall rationale, feasibility, and potential impact on the lung cancer field. At the full proposal stage, submissions will additionally be evaluated for sound scientific rationale, study design, feasibility, and creativity/innovation.<sup>3</sup> Similar to an NIH R21 award, reviewers at the full proposal stage will be asked to provide an impact score reflecting their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the field of lung cancer research.



**Application review process.**

<sup>2</sup> LOIs and full proposals must be submitted by 11:59pm Eastern US time on the date indicated.

<sup>3</sup> Note regarding preliminary data: A grant application need not have extensive background material, and preliminary data are not required. Reviewers focus their evaluations on the conceptual framework, the level of innovation, and the potential to significantly advance our knowledge or understanding. Appropriate justification for the proposed studies can be provided through literature citations, data from other sources, or, when available, from investigator-generated data.

## 8. Award Notification and Announcement

All applicants will be notified of their award status by the date specified in the Timeline section above. Regrettably, due to the high volume of submissions, LCRF is not able to provide feedback on LOIs or proposals that are not selected to receive an award. Awards will be publicly announced at LCRF's annual Lung Cancer Awareness Luncheon, via the LCRF website, and press release.

## 9. Post-award Reporting Requirements

During the funding period, all investigators are required to submit at least two progress reports including the following:

| Report Type   | Due Date  | Templates   |
|---|---|---|
| Interim Report                                      | At conclusion of year one of the grant term       | <a href="http://lcrf.org/InterimReport">http://lcrf.org/InterimReport</a> |
| Final Report<br>(includes financial summary report) | Within sixty days of conclusion of the grant term | <a href="http://lcrf.org/FinalReport">http://lcrf.org/FinalReport</a>     |

All reports must be submitted via the LCRF online grants management system, and additional reports may be assigned when project terms are amended (e.g. in the case of a no-cost extension or institutional transfer). Receipt of the second year of funding is contingent upon submission and approval of the interim progress report at the conclusion of the first year of the grant term.

## 10. Inquiries

For questions, please contact the LCRF office at [grants@lcrf.org](mailto:grants@lcrf.org) or via phone at +1 (212) 588-1580.