

**Date: August 11, 2022**

**Subject: Alliance Cancer Control Program Pilot Project Funds**

**Letter of Intent Due: September 22, 2022, 5:00pm Eastern Time**

**Applications Due: October 20, 2022, 5:00pm Eastern Time**

**Submission deadlines will be strictly enforced.**

TO: All rostered Alliance members

FROM: Marie Wood, MD  
Deputy Director, Alliance Cancer Control Program

John P. Leonard, MD  
Lymphoma Committee Chair

Aminah Jatoi, MD  
Cancer in the Older Adult Committee Chair

Lucile Adams-Campbell, PhD  
Health Disparities Committee Chair

The Alliance is pleased to announce the availability of funds to support early career investigators and pilot projects in the Cancer Control Program (CCP), including cancer prevention, risk assessment, screening, symptom intervention, surveillance, health outcomes research, or specific population groups, including minority and underserved, older adult, or adolescent and young adult populations. The purpose of these pilot projects is to generate preliminary data that will lead to Alliance protocols. Eligible proposals must address at least one of the following categories and must include a research project:

1. Foster career development for early career investigators in underrepresented minority groups through a mentored research project.
2. Generate research within the Alliance focused on underrepresented minorities.

**Eligibility:**

**Category 1:**

- The PI must be an early career investigator; defined as either an instructor or assistant professor position within their institution and no more than 10 years from the start of their first faculty appointment.
- The PI must also be a self-defined member of an underrepresented minority (URM) group (defined as any individual who identifies as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, or American Indian and Alaska Native).
- Applications must include at least two (2) mentors (one of whom must be a CCP committee member).

- The PI must submit a detailed and comprehensive mentorship plan at the time of application submission and allocate protected time to engage in training and career development activities.
- The PI, their mentors, and their respective institutions must be Alliance members, and, if selected for funding, the PI must be a member of a relevant Alliance CCP committee prior to distribution of funds.

#### Category 2:

- The PI(s) may be from any career stage.
- Proposed projects must be in the field of cancer prevention and control, such as cancer prevention, risk assessment, screening, symptom intervention, surveillance, health outcomes research, or specific population groups, including minority and underserved, older adult, or adolescent and young adult populations.
- Projects must address clinical trial issues related to underrepresented groups including, but not limited to, older or younger individuals or those from racial and/or ethnic, sexual and gender minority groups.
- If Co-PIs, the contact PI must be a member of a CCP committee at the time of application.

#### **General Information:**

- The proposed project should align with the committee membership of the investigator and have **strong** potential to lead to a full protocol within the Alliance.
- Up to two (2) years of funding will be provided to each investigator upon satisfactory completion of annual progress and financial reports.
- We are planning an Alliance workshop program to foster career development for investigators in underrepresented minority groups and/or doing research in URM patients. More details of this will follow, but participation of awardees in that program when available will be encouraged.
- Success of these applications will be demonstrated by publications, development of a full protocol within the Alliance or establishment of the early career investigator in a leadership position within the Alliance.

Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Jill Oliveri ([jill.oliveri@osumc.edu](mailto:jill.oliveri@osumc.edu)) by **September 22, 2022**. The LOI must include:

- Proposal title, goal and/or specific aims and a one-paragraph description of the proposed project.
- Demonstration/documentation of institutional and individual Alliance membership, as well as CCP committee membership (as appropriate).

Eligible applicants will be invited to submit an application in the form of a 5-page proposal to conduct a CCP pilot clinical trial that addresses at least one of the categories outlined above. Proposals should be written using 11 point (or larger) font in either Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface (black font color) with at least 0.5 inch margins on all sides.

The proposal should follow the format below:

- Title page (include address, phone number, and preferred email address for contact PI; include email address for all Co-PIs) (not included in page limit)
- Background (include rationale and significance)
- Study objectives
- Study plan (include schema and eligibility criteria)
- Data analysis plan
- Feasibility (provide evidence that study can reach accrual goal within 18 months of the start of funding)
- Description of how this pilot study will lead to an Alliance protocol in the near future
- Description of research environment

Required, but Not Included in Page Limit:

- References
- Detailed training plan (for Category 1 only; 1 page limit)
- Letter of support from the mentors committing time to mentor the applicant (for Category 1 only: one page limit for each)
- NIH-formatted biographical sketch for PI(s) and mentors (if applicable)
- Summary of Other Support for PI(s) and mentors (if applicable)
- Budget (following the PHS 398 budget format, including the Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period AND the Checklist Form page) that may request up to \$100,000 in total costs (including institutional indirect costs totaling not more than 15%)
- Detailed budget justification

Awardees must budget for and attend at least one Alliance Group meeting to present the results of their research. Funds not to exceed 10% may be requested for early career investigator salary support; however, funds **cannot be** used for PI (or co-investigator) or mentor salary support or salary support for Alliance Central Office staff.

Applications will be judged on likelihood of leading to an Alliance full protocol, significance (including the ability to address issues relevant to underrepresented groups within CCP studies), innovation, approach, likelihood of completion of the project within the allotted timeframe, and strength of training plan (if appropriate).

Note: These pilot studies will not be considered Alliance protocols, and as such, will not be assigned a protocol number or be eligible for cancer control credits/reimbursements or per-case payments for the participating site(s).

**Complete applications must be submitted to Jill Oliveri via email ([jill.oliveri@osumc.edu](mailto:jill.oliveri@osumc.edu)) no later than October 20, 2022 (5:00pm Eastern Time).** Approved projects will be funded with an anticipated budget start date of November 15, 2022 and a budget end date of June 30, 2024. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposal to their local IRB for approval at the time the application is submitted to the Alliance CCP for review to reduce time to activation, if funded.** If

the study is not activated within the first 12 months after funding is awarded, the study will be shut down.

If the submitted application is not adherent to the requirements described above or if the submission is late, it will not be reviewed.

Questions about the application process should be addressed to Jill Oliveri, DrPH, at [jill.oliveri@osumc.edu](mailto:jill.oliveri@osumc.edu) or 614-293-8174.