**Breast Cancer SPORE Funding Opportunity Career Development (CD) and** **Developmental Research Program (DRP) Projects**

**“Bringing new investigators and ideas to bear on the challenge of breast cancer disparities”**

**Purpose of RFA:**

The overall goal of this funding opportunity is to advance and elevate translational research projects in breast cancer to the point of potential inclusion in full P50 Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) application. The Breast Cancer SPORE will provide funding for novel ideas with potential to have high impact on reducing deaths from breast cancer. Each year more than 40,000 women die from breast cancer and underserved minority populations within the catchment area of the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center (UCCCC) experience disparities in breast cancer outcomes. A P50 funded Breast SPORE in UCCCC will provide an extraordinary opportunity to build quickly on other developments and innovations, which can accelerate progress in all areas of cancer research and promote health equity. Eligible projects are aimed at:

* Attracting junior investigators to the area of translational research in breast cancer and cancer-related health disparities. Junior investigators will be most competitive if they are paired with a more senior investigator;
* Allowing more established investigators **who are not currently engaged in breast cancer** and cancer health disparities -related research to extend their investigations into these important areas; or
* Permitting any investigator **to test a novel hypothesis of relevance to breast cancer** which might not yet meet NIH requirements for R01 funding; and
* Deploying innovative technologies to address healthcare needs of communities in UCCCC catchment area affected by disparities.

**Note:**

* The proposed project must be significantly different from funded research already being conducted by the Principal Investigator.
* Collaborations across institutions will be strongly encouraged at the SPORE application stage. However, given the limited budgets of these preliminary projects, proposals at the University of Chicago and projects that include patient and community advocates will be given priority.
* Trainees, fellows, undergraduate students, medical students, and residents are **not** eligible to apply.
* Any one investigator is eligible only once for this support, unless the additional proposed pilot and feasibility study constitutes a real departure from his/her ongoing research.

**Use of Cores:**

The project must demonstrate how both the Biospecimen/Pathology and the Genomic/Analytic/Informatics Cores will be used in study.

* Definition of Cores:
* The Biospecimen and Pathology Core (BPC) plays a critical role in the effective procurement, pathologic characterization and analysis of human biospecimens. The core currently curates more than 30,000 well-annotated biospecimens, including DNA, plasma, serum, FFPE and fresh frozen samples from breast cancer patients and controls. The BPC also aims to establish physiologically relevant cost-effective preclinical models including organoids for genomic, functional and drug screening studies focused on breast cancer. Both biospecimen procurement and pathology annotation should be vital for the success of any translational research project proposed in the SPORE program and for the collaborative projects from other institutions.
* The Genomics, Analytics and Informatics Core (GAIC) will provide support for the collection, management, integration, analysis and curation of data generated from all funded SPORE Projects. The GAIC will also facilitate Material Transfer and Data Sharing agreements.

**Working Definitions:**

* Translational research is defined as research focused on translating interventions/approaches into real world health care settings, communities, and populations at risk;
* Cancer health disparities are adverse differences between certain population groups in cancer measures, such as [incidence](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000046145&version=Patient&language=English) (new cases), prevalence (existing cases), [morbidity](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000044514&version=Patient&language=English) (cancer-related health complications), [mortality](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000496502&version=Patient&language=English) (deaths), [survivorship](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000445089&version=Patient&language=English) and [quality of life](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000045417&version=Patient&language=English) after cancer treatment, burden of cancer or related health conditions, [screening](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000046171&version=Patient&language=English) rates, and [stage](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000045885&version=Patient&language=English) at [diagnosis](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=CDR0000046450&version=Patient&language=English).

***Please feel free to ask for guidance if you are unsure about the suitability of your topic or project.***

**Period and Amount of Funding:**

* Up to $50,000\* in direct costs
* 12 month projects; start date January 15, 2020
* Funds may be requested for personnel, supplies, service and other costs; PI salary is not allowed
* This is an internal award, and there are no indirect costs

Successful candidates will be required to report their progress 6 months into the fiscal year and at the end of the grant in 12 months.

\*Funding amount can change without prior notice.

**Applications Guidelines:**

*Proposal Format:* Arial, 11 pt. font, minimum of 0.5 inch margins. Please follow NIH guidance when completing the necessary proposal materials.

\*The science portion (#’s 3-4) should be no longer than 3 pages in length combined (not including the cited literature).

1. PHS 398 Face Page
2. List of Investigator(s) and Co-Investigators – Include name, academic title, institution, email address, and phone number
3. Specific Aims\*
4. Research Strategy (significance, innovation, approach)\*
5. Literature Cited
6. Budget (use PHS 398 form page 4)
7. Detailed Budget Justification
8. PI Biographical Sketch (NIH formatted)
9. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable)
10. Inclusion of Women and Minorities (if applicable)
11. Inclusion of Children (if applicable)
12. Inclusion Enrollment Report (if applicable)
13. Letters of support are only required for collaborations with partnering institutions and/or organizations.

The application does not need to be signed by an authorized official at this time.

The PHS 398 forms can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

**Submission Process:**

* **Deadline: September 17, 2020**

Process: Submit 1 electronic **PDF version** of the completed grant application by uploading it to the InfoReady site: <https://uchicago.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1821947>

Please send questions about the application process to the following SPORE CEP/DRP Core Leaders:

Kay Macleod, PhD (kmacleod@uchicago.edu )

Lucy Godley, MD, PhD (lgodley@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu)

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**Review Criteria**

1. Quality of the candidate with an emphasis on prior productivity and potential for scientific success
2. Scientific merit, originality of the proposal, and translational applicability
3. Significant interaction between clinical, basic, and/or population investigators
4. Applicant’s clarity of understanding of translational opportunities in breast cancer and/or cancer health disparities and potential pitfalls
5. Likelihood of advancing to a full SPORE Project. A competitive full SPORE Project is expected to address an unmet clinical need but may include discovery science in biomarker development, immunotherapy, epigenetics, chemical biology, cancer metabolism, imaging, AI and other high priority areas of translational research interest for the NCI.
6. Inclusion of Women and Minorities in clinical and epidemiologic projects

#### The Breast Cancer SPORE Program will be fully committed to attracting minorities and women to research opportunities and is dedicated to fulfilling all requirements of the guidelines of local and federal agencies regarding recruitment of minorities and women.

A recipient of a Career Development or Development Research Award will become a member of the Breast Cancer SPORE Program. There will be a clear expectation for participation in all appropriate activities of the SPORE, including SPORE scientific meetings and the annual SPORE retreat. They will have access to the resources of the SPORE, including the Cores described above.