

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant

1/1/2022 – 12/31/2024

Objective

The University of New Mexico (UNM) has been issued an Institutional Research Grant (IRG) by the American Cancer Society (ACS) for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024. The purpose of this grant is to increase the base of cancer-related research at UNM through pilot awards to faculty members campus-wide.

Eligibility

Junior faculty members with appointments in all Schools and Colleges of UNM are eligible for research support through the ACS IRG. Junior Faculty must be within six years of their first independent faculty appointment. Applications are open to any faculty member who has not yet obtained national, peer-reviewed funding for their cancer-related research programs and are within six years of their first independent faculty appointment.

Applicants may not have previously received NIH R01-level national, peer-reviewed research funding or K99/R00 funding. Eligibility is not affected by prior internal or regional research awards or by the prior receipt of Federal awards for mentored research.

Research track, tenure track and clinical educator tract faculty are eligible to apply. Applicants must have adequate release time from clinical and teaching duties for research. Each applicant must have identified and have the support of a mentor and have a plan for transition to peer-reviewed external funding.

IRG pilot project grants are intended to support independent, self-directed investigators early in their careers, for whom the institution must provide research facilities or space customary for an independent investigator.

****Recipients of IRG pilot project grants must be, at time of the application, United States citizens, non-citizen nationals or permanent residents of the United States.****

Terms of Funding

All ACS IRG awardees are expected to attend a year-long Professional Development Colloquium to assist their transition to independent, external grant support. The program consists of one 90-minute meeting per month with Dr. Laurie Hudson (LHudson@salud.unm.edu) and other experienced research faculty. The curriculum focuses on research development, coupled with formal presentations and workshop exercises designed to build research and grantsmanship skills. Awardees who have already completed this program do not need to repeat it.

	Research Award
Award Amount	Up to \$30,000
No. Award/year	3
Project Period	Up to 1-year*
	Allocated to excellent <u>basic, translational, clinical and population-based research</u> proposals that have the potential to advance our understanding, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of cancer and also to advance the career of the recipient. Open to all areas of cancer research.
Deadlines (est. start date)	February 1st (March 1 st est. start) August 1st (September 1 st est. start)

**ACS allows for current awardees to apply for a second year of funding, in competition with new applications. Review will focus on progress demonstrated by publications, presentations and external grant submissions.*

Allowable Costs

Applicants must follow UNM and ACS guidelines on the use of funds. Salary for technicians, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are permitted, as well as expenses for program-specific supplies, animals, user fees in core facilities and publications.

Unallowable Cost:

- Secretarial/Administrative Salaries
- Student Tuition and Student Fees (both graduate and undergraduate)
- Travel (except for travel essential to the conduct of the research)
- Books and Periodicals
- Membership Dues
- Office and Laboratory Furniture
- Office Equipment and Supplies
- Rental of Office or Laboratory Space
- Recruiting and Relocation Expenses
- Non-medical services to patients (Travel to clinical site or patient incentives are allowable expenses.)
- Per-diem charges for hospital beds
- Construction, renovation or maintenance of buildings/laboratories.

Application Components:

1. General Information Form

The title should be descriptive and specific and should not exceed 60 characters, including spaces between words and punctuation. Renewal applications should have the same title as the initial award.

2. Biographical Information

- a. Use the biographical information section of the application
- b. Provide biosketch(es) Mentor(s)

3. Other Research Support

- a. Using the section in the application, provide all current research support funding of the applicant including title, sponsor, total amount and total term of award.
- b. Investigators who hold, or have held, a competitive national research grant (NSF, NIH, ACS or equivalent) are not eligible to apply; however, local/regional grants (NM Heart, NM Lung or equivalent, UNM RAC grants and Federal grants for mentored research may be held concurrently with an ACS IRG grant.

4. Research Plan (5-page limit - including relevant figures; 11 pt. Arial font)

- a. Abstract (300-500 words)
- b. Description of Research Background and Objectives
- c. Description of Methods and Analytic Strategies to be used
- d. Statement describing the Significance, Potential Impact and Cancer Relevance of the project and its Implication for Future Research.
- e. Bibliography
- f. Renewal Applications should focus on research accomplishments including publications, presentations and grant submission. Applicants are encouraged to provide strong evidence that one more year of funding will substantially increase competitiveness for external funding.

5. Budget & Budget Justification

- a. Maximum Amount \$30,000
- b. No indirect costs are permitted
- c. Complete budget section in the applications
- d. Personnel: Technical salaries and stipend for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are allowed. If support for a student or fellow is requested, his/her duties and education level must be clearly defined.
- e. Permanent Equipment: All items of durable nature over \$500 must be listed.
- f. Supplies: Radioactive and biohazardous substances should be specifically identified. Quotes should be provided for items requiring custom synthesis.
- g. Other Costs: This category should include costs of animal purchase and maintenance, fees for the use of core facilities as well as any allowable item not specified above.

6. Environmental & Future Plans

- a. Describe the space and facilities available for the project.
- b. Describe the time available for research

- c. Frequent interactions with designated mentor(s) is highly encouraged for the success of newly independent investigators. Describe the applicant/mentee relationship and how the applicant will utilize this relationship to aide in their future plans for external funding.
- d. Provide a specific plan for transition to external funding.

7. Cancer Relevance Information Form

This form contains a separate page for Cancer Relevant Information, including space for a General Audience Summary that is particularly useful to the officers of the ACS Southwest Division.

8. Research Promotion Form (optional)

This form is again useful to the officers of the ACS Southwest Division. Although not a condition of the award, many IRGC awardees have developed and maintained important roles in the activities of the Division.

9. Letter from Department Chair or Division Chief

Specifically addressing space and facilities, time available for research and current expectations for a research career.

10. Letter from Mentor(s)

This letter must be from a UNM faculty member from within or outside the applicant's department. It must assure the mentor's willingness to serve in this role and present a detailed mentoring plan that includes the frequency of meetings.

11. Appendix

A limited appendix, e.g. charts, figures, publications and manuscripts, supplemental explanations essential to the proposal may be included. If the proposal was previously submitted to an external peer-reviewed funding agency, but was not funded, the Appendix should include this application, and information about its status (including the external agency's written critique, if the grant was not funded).

Submission

Applicants are asked to compile application into **1 PDF file** (including appendices). It is preferred that documents are converted into PDF rather than being scanned.

Please e-mail application to UNMCCC-PilotProgram@salud.unm.edu by 5 p.m. MST on the application due date.

Review Process

Two to three faculty members will review the grant in an "NIH-based" style for Overall Impact that is based on five key criteria: Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach and Environment. Review template is available to applicants upon request.

Questions?

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