

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant

1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027

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, 2025 to December 31, 2027. The purposes of this grant are to increase the base of cancer-related research at UNM through pilot awards to junior faculty members campus-wide, and to foster direct relationships between funded institutions and the local ACS. The intent is to support these junior faculty in initiating cancer research projects so they can obtain preliminary results that will enable them to be competitive for national research grants.

Eligibility

IRG pilot project grants are intended to support independent, self-directed investigators early in their careers, for whom an institution must provide research facilities, resources, or space customary for an independent investigator. These individuals must be eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants, and may not currently hold an NIH R01 or equivalent grant (defined by ACS as an award of more than \$100K directs annually for more than three years). Applicants for pilot project grants should be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment. Support of senior investigators or postdoctoral fellows is not permitted.

Junior faculty members with an appointment in any UNM School or College are eligible for research support through the ACS IRG. 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.

Eligibility is not affected by prior internal or regional research awards or by the prior receipt of Federal awards for mentored research. Each applicant must have identified and have the support of a mentor(s) including at least one who is a member of the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. The mentor should advise in the proposed plan for transition to peer-reviewed external funding.

Recipients of IRG pilot project grants are not required to be US citizens. However, any applicant who is not a US citizen, must hold a visa that will allow him or her to remain in the US long enough to complete the IRG pilot project.

Terms of Funding

All ACS IRG awardees are expected to attend a 20-week R-Grant Writing Course (R1GOR) to assist their transition to independent, external grant support. The program consists of weekly 90-minute group sessions, peer-writing and review exercises with Dr. Matthew Campen (MCampen@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	\$40,000 Additional \$10,000 voucher to use the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center's Shared Resources
Awards per 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 (estimated start date)	March 1st (April 1 st est. start) September 1st (October 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
- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- User fees in core facilities
- Technical assistance
- Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to 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.)
- Registration fees at scientific meetings

Unallowable Cost:

- Salary of principal investigator (or other faculty)
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- 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/laboratory

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 up to \$40,000 (depending upon the award)
- 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) are 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. At least one mentor must be a member of the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center.

11. Appendix

A limited appendix, e.g. 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 UNMCC-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?

Dr. Michelle Ozbun

Amaris Swann

Belinda Quesada

Principal Investigator

Pre-Award Inquiries Contact

Post Award Inquiries Contact

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