

Request for Proposals: UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium SPORE Projects

The UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium submitted a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) application to the NCI in May 2020. While the infrastructure scored highly, reviewers were critical of the projects to varying degrees. The Consortium is planning another submission in September 2021 with new and/or revised projects.

SPORE project proposals are distinctly different from either R01 or U01 research mechanisms in that they must be translational. In every SPORE project, the development of new cancer-relevant interventions should include both a laboratory component and a human application (see options below) that must be performed at some time during the 5-year term of the grant. Note that experiments using human cell lines, xenografts or tumor grafts **do not fulfill** the requirement for a human application of translational research.

At least one of the following types of human endpoints should be proposed in each SPORE research project:

- Early phase clinical trials of new investigational drugs and biologics, experimental procedures, medical devices, or combinations thereof, or
- Early phase clinical trials of new combinations or new uses of the FDA-approved agents and devices, or
- Discovery and development of biomarkers, only when measurements are made in human specimens, or directly in human subjects, or
- IND-directed toxicology studies conducted following a pre-IND meeting with the FDA in which the plan proposed by the investigators is acceptable to the FDA, or
- Population, behavioral, or psychosocial studies, when these studies address mechanistic aspects of the biology of the disease, or
- Clinical studies that lead to laboratory studies, which address new clinical hypotheses.

The SPORE program fosters highly interactive research typically involving multiple PIs (representing basic science, translational and clinical research), and **the Consortium is particularly interested in proposals spanning two or more UC campuses**. SPORE projects will be supported by Biostatistics and Biorepository cores.

Selection of projects for inclusion in the SPORE will be based on significance and impact of the proposal, experience and expertise of the investigative team, strength and novelty of approach, interaction of the research team, and diversity of the applications to cover the priorities of the NCI (specifically noting early detection, prevention or population science).

APPLICATION GUIDELINES: All applications (pdf) must be submitted via email to kurt.giles@ucsf.edu and should include:

- 1) Research proposal: **no more than 2 pages** (exclusive of references), and be structured as follows: Specific Aims, Significance, Impact, Approach
- 2) NIH biosketch of all investigators

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 5:00pm PST, Monday February 1st, 2021.

Selected projects will be invited to present to the SPORE external advisory board in early March. We are aiming for a September 2021 submission with a start date of July 1st, 2022.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For questions or other enquiries, contact Kurt Giles at kurt.giles@ucsf.edu or call (415) 341 3618.