



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2023 Pilot Research Projects

CSUF/UCI-CFCCC Cancer Health Equity Research Program (CHERP)

The California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and University of California, Irvine Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (UCI-CFCCC) are pleased to announce the Cancer Health Equity Research Program (CHERP) Pilot Projects 2023 funding round.

RFA Release Date: August 22, 2022

Contacts: CSUF: Dr. Marcelo Tolmasky [mtolmasky@fullerton.edu; (657) 278-5263]

UCI: Dr. Sora Park Tanjasiri [tanjasir@uci.edu; (949) 824-6009]

KEY DATES

- Collaboration Forum: September 23, 2022 (CSUF)
- Applications Due: November 14, 2022 (11:59 pm PST)
- Internal Advisory Committee Review: December 2022
- Notice of Award: January 2023
- Earliest Funding Start Date: February 1, 2023

FUNDING INFORMATION

- \$100,000 direct cost for 1 year
- **One** R03-like pilot project will be awarded

BACKGROUND

Cancer is the second cause of death overall with certain cancers showing disparate incidence and mortality patterns among specific groups. Despite decades of focused research and training efforts in cancer control, persistent health disparities remain for ethnic/racial populations, people with disabilities, those who live in rural areas, and/or who have lower education and economic resources. Currently, the health disparities workforce does not reflect the needed diversity in the United States and there are still critical gaps to address when it comes to accessing quality education and training to support the development of talented students/early career investigators in this field.

Orange County is the third largest and second most densely populated county in California. The county mirrors the state's vast ethnic/racial diversity which includes a sizeable proportion of non-Hispanic Whites, Hispanic/Latinos, Asian Americans, Blacks, and mixed/other. CSUF is an academic institution serving underserved populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS), and the UCI-CFCCC is an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center at UC Irvine. CHERP is a collaborative cancer-specific partnership between these two institutions that aim to support highly interactive pilot cancer health disparities research that will not only advance cancer health disparities knowledge, but also serve as foundational training in this area of need for underrepresented undergraduate (CSUF) and master's level (CSUF/UCI) students. The anticipated outcomes of each successful pilot project are to generate preliminary data that may be used in future competitive grant applications and provide student mentorship.

DEFINITIONS

Disparity research:

- Cancer health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of cancer and related adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups.
- These population groups may be characterized by gender, age, race, ethnicity, education, income, social class, disability, geographic location, or sexual orientation.

Under-represented student categories:

- Race/ethnicity: Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, or other groups that can be demonstrated as underrepresented by the grantee institution;
- Disability;
- And/or from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as below established low-income thresholds

RESEARCH SCOPE

CHERP priority areas of interest:

Cancer risk factor reduction (e.g., tobacco, obesity)

Cancer screening

Cancer epidemiology (including epigenetics)

Cancer survivorship

- CHERP will prioritize pilot projects that address disparity needs in the catchment area of Orange County.
- Topics can be in any area of cancer-related basic clinical, translational, prevention, control, behavioral and/or population research.
- Pilot projects must be highly interactive and involve at least one principal investigator from CSUF and UCI. The *collaboration forum* that will be held in September 2022 will present opportunities to identify these potential partnerships (details below).
- Projects that can generate critical preliminary data for a planned submission/resubmission of a peer-reviewed extramural NIH/CI or similar grant proposal will be considered, with special consideration given to applications supporting resubmissions that generate new data in response to prior critiques.
- A collaboration strategy and mentoring/training plan for early-stage investigators (if applicable) and under-represented students from each institution must be clearly described in the application.

ELIGIBILITY

All UC Irvine and CSUF faculty members are eligible to apply. An investigator from CSUF must partner with an investigator from UCI. The awarded UCI PI must join CFCCC membership prior to the project's launch; the CSUF PI will be eligible to become an Associate Member of UCI-CFCCC. A collaboration between junior faculty and senior faculty co-leaders is not required but highly encouraged to provide mentorship opportunity. Though not required, it is also strongly encouraged that minority investigators from both institutions apply.

Collaboration Forums

One Collaboration Forum will be held annually during each pilot project application cycle. Each forum will facilitate collaborative research projects with special attention to areas of complementary cancer interests and skillsets between CSUF and UCI-CFCCC faculty. Plenary speakers and small round-table breakouts that comprise the sessions aim to promote idea generation, networking, and research brainstorming exercises. Interested pairs of faculty researchers are required to follow up with Program PIs (Tanjasi and Tolmasky) to discuss collaborative research concepts. An interest survey ([click here](#)) is available to help Program PIs learn more about your research and facilitate the matching process.

FUNDING TERMS

- Up to \$100,000 direct costs (\$50,000 per institution)
- Projects are limited to one year of support
- Expenditures on large equipment (e.g., >\$5K) will require submitting justification for the equipment and approval.
- Co-funding is allowable and may be described in the application. However, co-funding is not a requirement.
- Funds should be fully spent within the award period. No-cost extensions will be granted in limited circumstances and are contingent on continued funding of the parent P20. All no-cost extensions must be requested in writing to CHERP administrators.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Download the application form and guide on the program website ([click here](#)). Submit the application as a single PDF file to cfccadmin@hs.uci.edu by November 14, 2022 (11:59 pm PST). Required application components are outlined below. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Format Requirements: Arial font, 11 pt., minimum 0.5 inch for all margins, no appendices.

CHERP Pilot Project Application Form Components:

1. Project Details
 - A. Project Details Cover Sheet
 - B. Scientific Abstract (0.75 page)
 - C. Lay Audience Summary (0.25 page)
 - D. Research and Mentoring Strategy (3 pages max.)
 - D.1. Background and Significance
 - D.2. Specific Aims and Research Strategy
 - D.3. Student Recruitment and Mentoring Plan
 - D.4. Plans for Future Funding

- E. Multi-PI Leadership and Collaboration Plan (1 page max.)
 - F. Bibliography/References Cited (no page limit)
 - G. Detailed Budget (table) and Justification (1 page max.) from *each* institution
2. NIH-formatted Biosketches for MPIs and Key Personnel (no page limit)
 3. Letters of Support (if applicable)

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Applications will be peer reviewed according to the 9-point NIH scientific review criteria with additional emphasis placed on the following criteria:
 - degree of collaboration between CSUF and UCI-CFCCC researchers;
 - focus on a cancer health disparity and priority areas;
 - potential for pilot data to inform future competitive NIH grant proposal;
 - ability to complete data collection within one year;
 - involvement of at least one underrepresented student (priority if recruited from the Cancer Research Education Program ([CREP](#)))
- Applicants will receive a copy of the review comments in an anonymous format.
- Applications whose projects use UCI-CFCCC Shared Resources or involve significant new collaborations are strongly encouraged.

REGULATORY APPROVALS

Regulatory or institutional approvals required for the proposed study must be obtained by each institution as applicable. If sufficient progress in obtaining regulatory approvals has not been made within 6 months after award date, funding may be withdrawn. Prior to the release of funding:

- All projects involving human subjects must have IRB approval.*
- All projects involving animal subjects must have IACUC approvals.
- Projects requiring other regulatory or institutional use authorizations must obtain those approvals.
- Only one institution's IRB will review. The location where the majority of the research procedures are administered will likely serve as the IRB on record.
- If a study is already approved at either institution, then the relying site (other institution) should be added via an amendment to the approved study. The CSUF IRB contact is Grace Amaya (gamaya@fullerton.edu), and the UCI IRB contact is Valerie Sanchez (Valerie.ms@uci.edu).

**Due to the collaborative nature of projects, the IRB's at CSUF & UCI have established a reliance agreement for projects deemed to required expedited or higher levels of review.*

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Progress and Impact Reports: Due no later than 30 days after the end of the project period. Grantees will be asked to participate in mid-year check-ins as an opportunity for project and program leaders to identify areas that may need enhanced collaboration.
2. Financial Report: Due no later than 30 days after the end of the project period.
3. Additionally, co-PIs may be contacted annually for a period of 5 years after the project end date to track outcomes of each award, including trainee outcomes.
4. Grantees will present on the progress of their projects to the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) to help grantees problem solve any issues and/or prepare for extramural research grant submissions.

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Publications resulting from this project must include the following acknowledgment:

“Research reported in this publication was supported in part by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health under award number P20CA253254. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health, California State University Fullerton, or the University of California, Irvine, Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.”

If the project used a UCI CFCCC Shared Resource, please refer to this website for appropriate acknowledgement: <https://cancer.uci.edu/research/research-resources/acknowledgement-guidelines>